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by A. L. Chapman LL.B., F.T.I.I., Solicitor

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Chemist & Druggist

The newsweekly for pharmacy
5 April 1975 Vol. 203 No. 4958
116th year of publication

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Publisher James Lear

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Member Audit Bureau of Circulations

Comment

No clear mandate

The use of the title "chemist" in non-professional advertising is a debatable question upon which many pharmacists hold strong views and, rightly, the profession's leadership has sought to establish through the democratic process which is the majority opinion. So far it has failed to secure such guidance, however.

This week (p437) the National Pharmaceutical Union reports the result of its referendum among members and while the majority in favour of the Executive's policy is clear enough (80 per cent), the vote came from under half the membership. That is hardly a mandate to change the existing policy of the pharmaceutical profession—and there are those who would argue that the referendum was itself meaningless because it did not give a vote to all pharmacists employed in NPU pharmacies.

The Society's Council referendum has likewise been criticised because many branch decisions were said to have been taken at "unrepresentative" meetings—and no doubt the same charge can be levelled at the annual meeting of the Society at which a Council motion will be proposed to retain the status quo. Both the NPU and the Society votes were taken on the basis of "biased" documents purporting to set out the current position and the effect of changes.

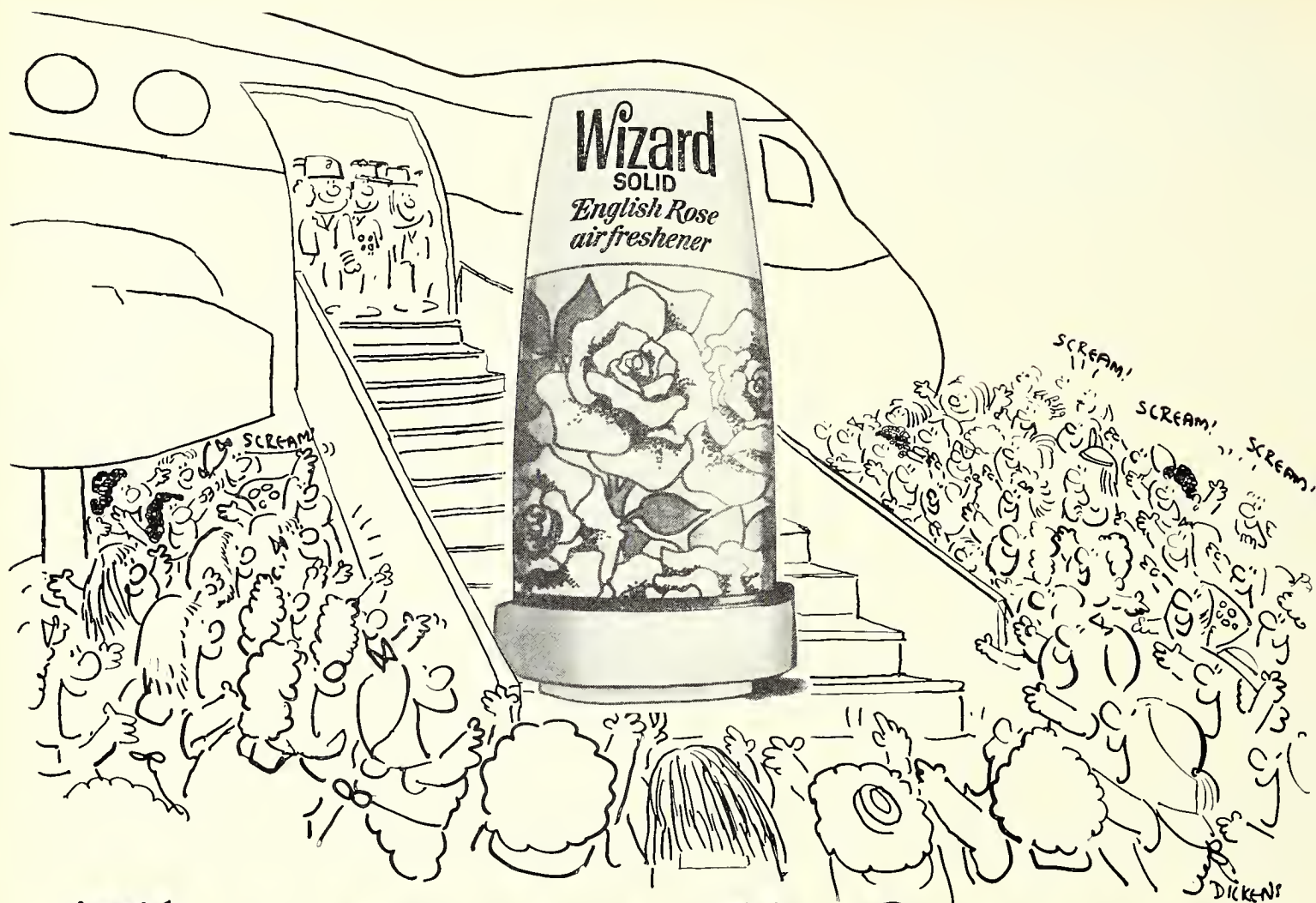
New attempt needed

Relinquishing the profession's tight hold over the use of titles is not to be undertaken lightly, however, and despite the disadvantages of further delay a new attempt should be made to establish membership opinion accurately. First to be decided is whether the view of the total membership should be canvassed, or only that of the retail sector. The latter course seems most desirable because it is only those with experience of retailing difficulties who can assess the need for greater freedom in the use of titles—and it should also be remembered that in law "chemist" is not a restricted title of *pharmacists* but of retail *pharmacies*.

The NPU vote falls a long way short of providing the complete answer from the retail sector, however. It counted the opinion of principals only (ie NPU members), be they pharmacists or not, and disregarded the pharmacist branch managers. Obviously Boots, Westons, Co-operative and other managers have a right to be heard—it is, after all, the pharmacist's control that permits the use of the title—and what of locums, who also derive their livelihood from retailing?

Testing such unorganised opinion may present a challenge, but that is no reason not to make the attempt. Since it is a professional matter, it is Council's responsibility to see that all involved have proper opportunity to voice their views. Regretably, the branch vote did not always provide such an opportunity and the annual meeting certainly does not.

Until a more representative view is obtained there should be a time limited "moratorium" on use of titles in advertising—one which, hopefully, even the Co-operative movement might respect until the profession has given its studied decision.



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Wizard Airfresheners

NPU vote for 'chemist' title in advertising

National Pharmaceutical Union members have voted four to one in support of the Executive's view that the description "chemist" should be permitted in advertising of non-professional services—but less than half the membership exercised their vote in the postal referendum.

The Union received 3,717 replies from NPU pharmacies, of which 3,499 were from NPU members. This represented a 66 per cent response from the 7,583 NPU members. Of the 3,499 replies, 2,850 (81.5 per cent) signified support for NPU policy, 551 (15.75 per cent) disagreed with the policy and 98 (2.75 per cent) did not indicate a preference.

The referendum invited those who disagreed with the Executive's policy to state their reasons, and the following analysis of the replies emerged: Multiples could spend more than NPU (106); would lower professional status (78); agree with PSGB policy (71); impossible to draw line between professional and non-professional

services (62); would open door to abuse (31); NPU should concentrate on better NHS remuneration (21); object to linking "chemist" with cut prices (18); against all advertising (17); believe in pure pharmacy (14); "chemist" is a misnomer (13); prefer money to be spent on a PR campaign for the profession (12); support use of "pharmacy" as well as "chemist" (9); not in long term interest of the profession (9); would be no control over the advertising (8); existing arrangements satisfactory (8); prefer "pharmacist" to "chemist" (6); would encourage use by unqualified traders (5); would increase competition from others (4); NPU members are not necessarily pharmacists (4); can already use trading name incorporating "chemist" (4); title "chemist" would become devalued (2); would reduce pharmacists to level of shopkeepers (2); no reason given (75). The total of these figures exceeds the 551 "noes" because some members gave more than one reason.

Personal control' definition disputed

The NPU Executive has taken exception to a statement in a Pharmaceutical Society's journal (March 15) that: "... no medicine of any sort may be sold from registered premises in the absence of the pharmacist, not even over-the-counter products which may be sold at any time by a general store."

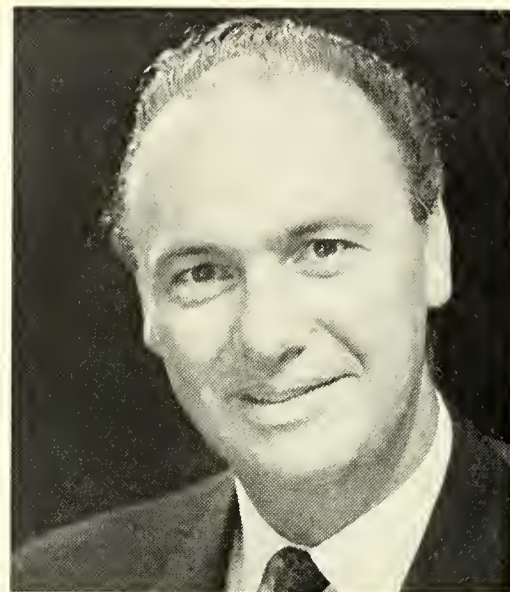
Concern was expressed that the journal should make a statement which the Committee believed could not be supported in law. It was therefore decided that the matter should be raised at the next meeting of the PSGB/NPU Liaison Committee. During the discussion the Committee noted that the relevant section of the Medicines Act repeated the wording of the earlier legislation almost word for word: "... at all premises where the business is carried on ... the business, so far as concerns the retail sale at those premises of medicinal products ... [must be] under the personal control of the person carrying on the business or that of another pharmacist ..."

There had been no case in which the court had defined "personal control". In one case, decided in 1938, it was held that a pharmacist who had been absent for some time had not exercised adequate personal control. Lord Hewart declined to give a judicial interpretation of the expression; he contented himself with deciding that, on the facts of that particular case, the defendant was on the wrong side of the line.

In a case which came before the Statutory Committee in 1970, in which a Manchester pharmacist had gone to

Blackpool for a fortnight's holiday, the Committee chairman said (amongst other things): "The last thing that I intend to do in the present case is to step in where angels feared to tread and to put my own precise interpretation on the Act. It must be plain that a question of degree is involved. I would not for my part say that the pharmacist ceased to be in personal control of his premises because he slipped out for a few minutes, even if he went down the street to make some purchases in other shops. At the other end of the scale, it is equally clear that a pharmacist cannot claim to be in personal control of the premises if he has exercised what may be described as remote control and has put in only an occasional appearance. Somewhere between these two extremes a line has to be drawn. I think that it is probably fair to say that the question is whether the attendance of the pharmacist at the premises is such as to give him substantial personal control over the business for a substantial part of the time."

□ Mr J. R. Dale, chief inspector, Pharmaceutical Society, told *C&D* that the advice given in the journal was offered as guidance in the operation of part-time pharmacies. In this case, when the pharmacist has finished his session he can no longer be considered to have "personal control." The pharmacist in charge of a pharmacy operating normal hours would not be considered as losing "personal control" if he was absent from the pharmacy for a few minutes.



Mr G. J. Wilkins

Beecham name their new chairman

Mr G. J. Wilkins, executive vice-chairman, Beecham Group Ltd, is to succeed Professor Sir Ronald Edwards as chairman and chief executive of the company when he retires on May 1, his 65th birthday.

The board has elected Sir Ronald president of the group from the same date; Mr H. G. Lazell will remain honorary president.

Mr Wilkins, 51, joined Beecham in 1945 as a research chemist, and spent the first 14 years of his career on the consumer products side of the group's business in a variety of research and development, technical, works management and marketing posts. During this period he worked in India and North and South America, as well as in the UK.

In 1959 he moved over to the pharmaceutical side of the business and was in overall charge of its worldwide development from 1964 (when he also joined the group board) until 1974.

MPs sign motion opposing multi-rate VAT

Before Parliament adjourned for the Easter recess, more than 40 Conservative and Liberal MPs declared their opposition to the introduction of multi-rate Value Added Tax.

The Conservative MPs, headed by Mr John Cope, Mr Neville Trotter and Mr Geoffrey Dodsworth, tabled a Parliamentary motion stating "That this House believes that multiple positive rates of VAT would place a very damaging extra burden of unproductive paperwork on business, particularly small businesses, and that extra higher rates of VAT are ridiculously unnecessary as well as ineffective as a 'redistributive' measure as long as income tax rates are as steeply progressive as they are in this country".

Three Liberal MPs—Mr A. J. Beith, Mr John Pardoe and Mr Stephen Ross—tabled an amendment seeking to omit all the words after "measure".

Mr Denis Healey, the Chancellor of the Exchequer, is to introduce his spring Budget on April 15.

Hospital salaries: rises of 20 per cent in the offing?

The NHS clinical psychologists have lodged a pay claim for a 20 per cent increase on their current salaries—and under the previous agreement hospital pharmacists up to the principal grade will automatically get the same increases as are finally agreed for the psychologists.

The psychologists' claim is from January 1, but the hospital pharmacist awards would be from March 1. If granted in full, that would mean a pre-registration student earning £2,346, with a principal's salary scale £5,379-£6,950. Grades above principal and NHS officers are the subject of an internal examination by the Guild of Hospital Pharmacists Section of the Association of Scientific, Technical and Managerial Staffs, but it is pointed out that it would be "unrealistic" not to expect a similar 20 per cent interim claim on these salaries as a means of relieving the erosion of salary levels by the cost of living. If conceded, that would give the Noel Hall area pharmacist grade a salary scale of £6,380-£6,617, and NHS Regional pharmaceutical officer (ii) £7,920-£8,846.

Final report on branch resolutions issued

A final report on resolutions passed at the Branch Representatives' meeting in May 1974 has been issued by the Council of the Pharmaceutical Society.

24 hour service: The Central NHS Committee is to seek the views of Area Chemist Contractor Committees, there having been a substantial change in circumstances since the Committees were last consulted in 1972 in that the NHS arrangements now provide for special payments. The Society's Scottish Department has consulted the Pharmaceutical General Council (Scotland) on the implementation of the proposal.

An improved ostomy service: The Central NHS Committee had already made representations to the Department of Health on a scheme to ensure that all post-operative colostomy and ileostomy patients receive an information card before discharge from hospital. Council therefore decided to approach the chief pharmacist at the Department and the Scottish Department made parallel representations to the Scottish Home and Health Department. The reply received from the Department of Health indicated that the Department's pharmaceutical staff had been discussing inter-professional problems relating to ostomy patients with their medical and nursing colleagues. The discussions ranged more widely than the issue of cards and related to all these patients' problems.

Rural dispensing: Council has reviewed the overall basis of the remuneration of dispensing doctors for their dispensing activities, particularly those reimbursed on

the Drug Tariff basis. The object was to examine the principles of remuneration as compared with those applied in deciding the payments to be made to chemist contractors. The apparent anomalies this investigation revealed were raised with the Department of Health.

Prescribers' telephone numbers: The Department is consulting other bodies about several proposed changes to NHS prescription forms. In Scotland, the matter has been raised with the Scottish Home and Health Department.

Unichem's sundries service

One thousand sundries are being listed in a pre-printed order form in a "new look" chemists' sundries service announced by Unichem. The concept is an extension of Unichem's PB (Profitable Buying) dis-

count scheme, which has proved so successful for purchasing of OTC products. Copies of the new forms with operational details are currently being distributed to customers and the new sundries system becomes effective April 14. Customers will also receive a price extended delivery note giving the recommended retail price.

Commenting on the new project, John Speller, Unichem's general sales manager said: "The changes are intended to minimise the past problems of Unichem through delays from manufacturers combined with ever-changing stock range which have tended to make sundries the 'Cinderella' of the wholesalers' operations. The improved sundries service should make life easier for the retailer and his staff."

Statutory Committee to meet on six cases

A case where it appears a body corporate conducted the business of a retail pharmacy without registering the premises in accordance with the law is included in a list of five new and one resumed inquiry to be considered by the Pharmaceutical Society's Statutory Committee on April 15-17. The inquiries are to be opened in public, and the session starts at 10.15 am on the first morning at 17 Bloomsbury Square, London WC1.

Government 'favours earnings-related pensions'

The Government are in favour of earnings-related pensions for the self-employed and are at present carrying out a detailed review of the problems involved in setting up such a system, Mr Brian O'Malley, Minister of State at the Department of Health and Social Security, told a meeting of the National Union of Small Shopkeepers recently.

Speaking about the changes in national insurance contributions, Mr O'Malley said that the new National Insurance structure which came into operation on April 1, was passed into law by the previous Government in 1973. "This Government does not accept those arrangements as either equitable or satisfactory", he went on. "We oppose the principle enshrined in the 1973 Social Security Act which gives flat-rate benefits for earnings-related contributions. Our 'Better Pensions' Bill which had its Second Reading in the House of Commons this week provides earnings-related benefits for employed men and women. We hope to bring this into operation in April 1977 if possible.

"We are also in favour of earnings-related pensions for the self-employed. Practical difficulties have so far ruled this out but we are now carrying out a detailed review of all the problems involved in establishing a system of such pensions for the self-employed. The Government will report to Parliament as soon as that study is completed."

However, the "Better Pensions" Bill contained two changes which would particularly benefit the self-employed, said Mr O'Malley. "As the result of that Bill men and women who continue to work on after pension age will no longer have to pay any national insurance contributions, including either Class 2 or the new Class 4

contributions, although employers will still have to pay. This will be of particular benefit to self-employed people, many of whom do not retire at pension age but continue to work on after it. They will still get increases in their eventual pension but they will not have to pay extra contributions to do so, as they do now. The extra pension will simply be calculated on the amount of pension they forgo by not retiring at pension age.

"In addition, someone who is self-employed but who also has a job as an employee will be able to count both his sets of contributions towards an earnings-related pension. The self-employed contributions will earn the basic pension and contributions as an employee will count for earnings-related pensions on top."



The star prize of a 14ins television set at the recent Bremner-White spring showroom was won for Mr T. Sawyer (centre) of J. Brown & Son (Walker) Ltd, Newcastle-on-Tyne, by Kathleen Falcus (right) his buyer. Presenting the prize (left) is Bremner-White representative, Mr J. Wright.

Council candidates in action

Employees expected to increase in future

The more burdens the independent retail pharmacist had to cope with, the more likely it was that the number of employee pharmacists would increase, making it more essential for employees to be fairly represented on the Pharmaceutical Council. This point was emphasised when three candidates in this year's Council election spoke to the London area, Boots Pharmacists Association, last week.

Mr W. H. Howarth, Nottingham, who is employed in general practice pharmacy administration, said three main factors would affect the employee's position in future: the Medicines Act's requirement that pharmacists should both supervise the sale of medicines and dispense at the same time would lead to the situation where two pharmacists were needed in every pharmacy; National Health Service reorganisation was moving towards the idea of the health centre in the high street being served by a consortium of pharmacists; and within the EEC, drastic changes in the attitude to pharmacy in the past four years had removed fears of the demise of the multiples in the Community.

Mr Howarth was concerned that employee pharmacists should be involved whenever discussions of the EEC directives took place. He intended to strive for national recognition of an employee pharmacist's association (*C&D*, February 15, p211) followed by recognition in Europe as a *groupement*. He felt that employees should be represented on the highest committees, such as the Central NHS (Chemist Contractors) Committee, which should be enlarged to represent the whole of pharmacy not just contractors.

'May take over Council'

Mrs E. Lucas-Smith, member of Council and a proprietor pharmacist, agreed that an organisation of employee pharmacists was necessary and said there may even come a day when "employees take over the Council and people like us will be struggling on the outside."

Council were considering introducing a "Guide to good pharmaceutical practice", she said. Pharmacists daily had to make decisions based on existing regulations but with a large element of choice, and post-graduate education was essential if pharmacists were to accept professional responsibility in matters such as counter-prescribing.

Another problem discussed at the meeting was lack of communication, both within the profession and that caused by the "vow of silence" imposed on Council candidates between nomination and the end of the voting period.

Mr T. E. Owen, Stockport, a general practice pharmacy manager for Boots Co. proposed that Council should set up a working party and get professional help,

say, from management consultants, to find out what the average pharmacist required from the Society. He had been to local branch annual meetings where only five people were present: "Can a branch such as that send people to the Branch Representatives meeting and say we represent the pharmacists of branch X?" The line of communication to the Council via the branches may not be the

Doctor dispensing: total ban 'only solution'

Total abolition of dispensing doctors together with provision of a comprehensive pharmaceutical service, was the only solution to the rural dispensing problem, Mr K. W. Youings, member of Council and a candidate in this year's Pharmaceutical Council election, told Sheffield Branch last week.

No "milk and water" moratorium was going to achieve anything for pharmacy, he said: "It would give the opposite side the chance to establish themselves as of right for all time." No short term expedient should be allowed to cloud the intent of the National Health Service Act 1948 that doctors should diagnose and prescribe and pharmacists dispense.

Sheffield Branch had criticised Council policy on the employment of pharmacists by dispensing doctors, saying that this situation undermined the pharmacists' status.

Council firmly believed that wherever dispensing was done, however, it should be carried out under pharmaceutical supervision. Mr Youings disagreed with subservience or subordination, but if employment of pharmacists by a doctor was discouraged it would mean encouraging dispensing by unqualified people without pharmaceutical supervision, which was clearly unacceptable.

Many argued that the Society was powerless and inept—that it did nothing and cared nothing for the interests of its members. Mr Youings had been engaged in rural practice for 27 years, in "one pharmacy" areas in communities of under 2000 people. Could anyone in his right senses suggest he could not care less about himself? he asked. Like many others he was perpetually at risk that local doctors might take up dispensing, so a proper solution to the problem was vital to him and his successors.

Mr Youings explained how Council had fought "hard and long" for the profession's achievements since the days when doctors did most of the dispensing. "Council welcomes new blood and new ideas," he continued, "but all the progress doesn't come from new blood. Results are achieved by a blend of energy, enthusiasm and experience and the dispensing doctor

best, he maintained, and the whole situation needed reviewing.

Asked by a member of the audience whether she thought there was any connection between the ban on canvassing imposed on Council candidates and the apathy of the electorate, Mrs Lucas-Smith said that the ban was based on the premise that people with money and influence would have more opportunity to get well known by the voters than the average pharmacist.

But these plans were thought out by sitting members of Council "and it's not in their interests to get new people known." She thought the idea was entirely wrong and something should be done about it. It was "so frustrating" for a Council candidate not to be able to comment on up-to-date pharmaceutical politics. "Anything that could improve the situation regarding members' voting would be a good thing," she concluded.

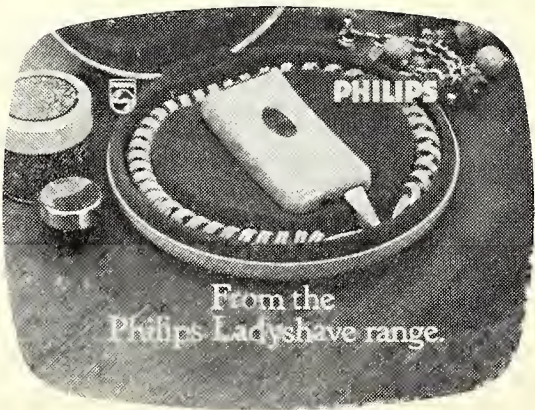
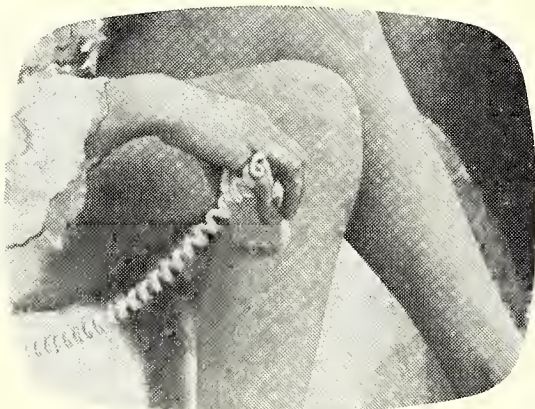
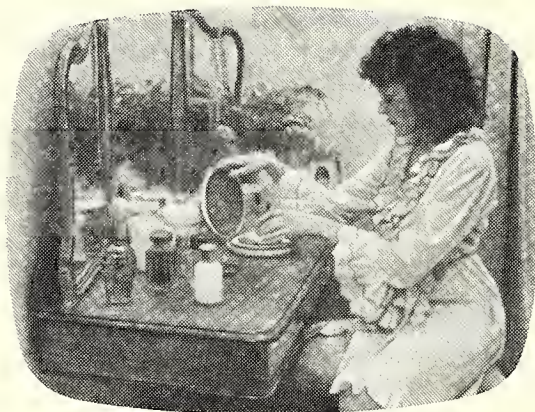
problem will be resolved with honour to the advantage of the profession in due course."

Turning to NHS reorganisation, Mr Youings believed the area pharmaceutical officer was the "key man." Pharmacy's salvation in the general practice sector might lie in the dual role of community pharmacists in retail pharmacies and as sessional pharmacists in community hospitals. Here the APhO had enormous scope to utilise the resources of pharmacy to the full; his role in resolving the doctor dispensing problem could not be underestimated. In the south-west they were seeing examples of the lively interest of APhO's but Mr Youings grieved to read of the Lincolnshire APhO who advocated the acceptance of a moratorium as a step in the right direction. It was a step sideways, claimed Mr Youings, who was looking for more constructive interpretation of the APhO's role.

Alcohol advertising rules

The advertising of alcoholic drinks should be "socially responsible" according to a new set of rules published last week by the Advertising Standards Authority.

The new rules, Appendix N to the British Code of Advertising Practice, states that advertisers have an obligation to ensure that their advertising does not seek to encourage excessive consumption or to exploit those who are especially vulnerable because of age, inexperience or any physical, mental or social incapacity. The rules laid down include the following: advertisements should not emphasise the stimulant, sedative, or tranquillising effects of any drink; the alcoholic strength should not be used as the principal subject of an advertisement, but that would not prevent the inclusion of factual information as to strength; advertisements should not encourage over-indulgence nor should they be directed at young people; and any claim that drink is, or might be, beneficial to health must comply with the provisions of Section V of the Code—the part which deals with products claiming to have a therapeutic effect.



BY PUBLIC DEMAND ONE OF YOUR OLD FAVOURITES IS BACK ON T.V.

The Philips Ladyshave commercial. It was so successful last year that Philips have decided to repeat it. Only more frequently.

It'll begin on April 28th. And run for five solid weeks. In the London, Westward, Midlands, Wales and West, Anglia and Southern television areas.

And in all these regions it'll be seen by almost 85% of ITV adults. With a total advertising impact of 127 million.

So make sure your stock situation can cope.

Right now, the Philips Ladyshave outsells its nearest competitor by over 100%.

And that's one thing we'll more than repeat.

*The Ladyshave HP 2111 £9.49 The Ladyshave Special HP 2114 £11.65
The Ladyshave Cordless HP 2201 £6.99 The Ladyshave de Luxe HP 2113 £6.86
Suggested selling prices (inc. VAT)*



PHILIPS

Simply years ahead.

NI Fellowship certificates presented

Three well-known members of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland received their Fellowship certificates from the president, Mrs C. B. A. Watson, at the annual Council dinner last week.

Mr H. H. Cowzer, a general practice pharmacist, was a member of the Society's Council 1942-55 and its president 1948-49. Mrs Watson believed he was the youngest president to hold that office up to that time and his monthly presidential "at homes" attracted an attendance of around 80 members. Since 1950 Mr Cowzer has been a member of the Society's Statutory Committee and with the NHS reorganisation was appointed to the Eastern Area Health and Social Services Board. "Mr Cowzer is known as one who gets things done and in so doing has enhanced the profession of pharmacy," said Mrs Watson.

Mr A. W. Kernahan began his career in general practice in Londonderry where he also lectured to pharmacy students taking Part II courses. Following the 1939-45 war (during which he served as an RNVR officer) he was a medical representative until appointed pharmaceutical officer to the Northern Ireland Health Service Board in 1947—a position he held until retirement in July 1973. In that capacity he explained the coding of prescriptions to pharmacists when punch-card pricing was introduced, and later shouldered the burden brought about by metrification—"there can be few pharmacists in general practice who have not had occasion to turn to him for advice and assistance," said the president. A member of the Northern Ireland Chemists' Benevolent Fund, Mr Kernahan was also much involved in setting up the C. W. Young Scholarship Fund. Mrs Watson added that he was a member with a high sense of integrity "and he expects the same standard from every pharmacist."

Work as honorary secretary

Mr W. C. Magee, a general practice pharmacist in Sixmilecross, co Tyrone, has served on the Executive Committee of the Ulster Chemists' Association and was its president 1969-70. He has also served on the Council of the Society but the difficulty of travelling forced him to resign. The president said Mr Magee's main contribution to pharmacy arose from his work as honorary secretary of the West Tyrone and Fermanagh Association. "Here his charm and sincerity have created a tremendous reservoir of goodwill amongst all pharmacists." A member of the Western Area Health and Social Services Board, he is also on the Board's pharmaceutical advisory committee.

Mr William Magee, one of three new Fellows of the Pharmaceutical Society of Northern Ireland, receives his certificate from the president, Mrs C. B. A. Watson



Council's guest list for the dinner included senior members of the medical, dental and optical professions, as well as officers from other pharmaceutical organisations. The Pharmaceutical Societies of Great Britain and of Ireland were represented by their presidents and secretaries and registrars. Mr C. C. Stevens, president PSGB, spoke on behalf of the guests and referred to the current difficulties faced by the professions—inflation, incomes static or reducing, a consumer-orientated society. They were being ground between the working man's need for protection and the politicians. But Mr Stevens believed phar-

macy would survive; it had established itself as a profession in the past 15-20 years and was now both satisfying and better financially rewarded than between the wars.

Maintain standards

However, it was when economic pressures came in that standards could go down and Mr Stevens asked all pharmacists not to lower their standards in the face of pressure from political or any other source. "Pharmacy will go back, and in five years we can lose 50 years of progress," he added.

New retail salaries in Northern Ireland

The following minimum salaries and wages for pharmaceutical employees in Northern Ireland became effective on April 1. All apply equally to both sexes: *Students and Apprentices* Pre-registration graduate £1,500. *Assistant Pharmaceutical Chemists*: After qualification and registration as PhC, first year £2,250, second year £2,400, third year £2,550, fourth year £2,700. *Managers and Branch Managers* (ie persons qualified as pharmaceutical chemists, employed in the capacity of manager or branch manager): After qualification and registration as PhC, first year by negotiation, second year £2,800, third year £3,050, fourth year £3,250. Annual increments are applicable from date of appointment. *Superintendents of bodies corporate and managers for representatives* (Section 17 and 18, 1945 Act): From appointment to above post, first year £3,300, second, third and fourth year by negotiation. *Locums*: £60.00 per week.

Shop assistants: Age 16 years £15.00, 17 £16.50, 18 £18.00, 19 £19.50, 20 £22.00, 21 £24.00 per week. At 19 years increments are subject to previous experience.

Rota: Pharmacists £2.50, assistants £1.00 per hour.

Dispensing assistants: Age 20 years £23.00, 21 years £25.00, 22 years £26.50 per week. Above 22 years salary negotiable. All deliveries of oxygen or other essential supplies undertaken by an assistant or manager outside working hours should be paid at overtime rates, and mileage allowance if own car is used.

The following are changes in the conditions of employment:

Overtime and rota: Payments on "seven fixed holidays" now apply to "nine fixed holidays". *Holidays*: Where a five-day working week is in operation 15 working

days' holiday with pay in each 12 months worked, or pro rata for each month completed, and the nine trade holidays or days off in lieu where trade holidays are worked. *Hours*: No deduction shall be made from the wages of an employee who has worked for less than 40 hours in any week, if his employer's hours of business do not permit the working of a full 40 hour week. A pro rata deduction may be made by an employer from the wages of his employee who voluntarily agrees to work less than 40 hours per week if the number of hours actually worked is less than the number of employer's hours of business (eg an assistant engaged on a part-time basis).

Westminster report

Decision on closures

A Government statement on child-resistant closures is expected this month. Asked in the Commons last week if a decision had been reached on the introduction of these closures, Dr David Owen, Minister of State for Health, replied: "The comments and suggestions received as a result of consultation with the interested representative organisations, professional and consumer bodies are still under consideration. It is hoped to make a statement in April."

Prescribing tranquillisers

Mr Arthur Lewis asked the Secretary for Social Services whether she would advise doctors not to prescribe drugs and tranquillisers without knowing the occupation of the recipient and not advising them of the effects in such occupations as train, bus and lorry drivers. Dr David Owen, Minister of State, said no—it was for the individual doctor to assess each case.

People

Mr Peter Kunath, general manager of the Irish branch of Max Factor & Co Inc, has been appointed to the board of the Pharmaceutical, Chemical & Allied Industries Association, Dublin.

Mr Albert Howells, OBE, FPS, has accepted an invitation to visit South Africa in May to open the South African Pharmaceutical Society's annual conference in Port Elizabeth. He intends to stay over to see some of their pharmacy training colleges and universities.

Mr J. H. Townsend, director of Imperial Chemical Industries Ltd with responsibility for ICI's interests in continental Europe and a former president of the UK Chemical Industries Association, has been elected president of the European Chemical Manufacturers' Federations.

Mr T. W. (Terry) Webster, MPS, retired from Dista Products Ltd at the end of March after 21 years' service with the company. Apprenticed in 1927, Mr Webster qualified as a pharmacist in 1931. After periods in retail, hospital, as a medical representative, and in wholesaler management, he joined the Distillers Co (Biochemicals) Ltd in 1954. He became sales manager for Dista in 1959 and marketing administration manager for the last three years. Mr and Mrs Webster now plan on moving home to the south coast and taking an autumn holiday in South Africa.

News in brief

□ Chemist contractors in England dispensed 24,351,051 prescriptions (15,220,029 forms) during October 1974 at a total cost of £25,093,524.95 (£1.03 per prescription).

□ The index of retail prices for all items for February was 121.9 (January 1974=100)—an increase of 1.7 per cent on January and of 19.9 per cent over the year.

□ Tolamolol, a new adrenergic beta-receptor antagonist, is described in a trial reported in last week's *British Medical Journal*, as being a potent anti-anginal agent, preferable to practolol and as effective as propranolol. Unlike the latter, it is cardioselective.

□ The UK death rate due to accidental causes is one of the lowest in the world, reports the "Office of Health Economics Briefing No 2" (OHE, 162 Regent Street, London W1R 6DD). However, 19,700 people died accidentally in the UK in 1973, the major cause being traffic accidents. The report costs £0.15.

□ The Patents (Amendment) Rules 1975 (HM Stationery Office, SI No 371, £0.12) amend the Patent Rules 1968 by increasing the fees payable under the Rules except that payable on application for a patent which remains £1. The new fees are payable on or after May 24, 1975, except for certain sealing fees and renewal fees paid in advance in which case the fees are increased on March 24, 1975.

Topical reflections

BY XRAYSER

Change

We live in a world of change, even if it frequently seems that the departure from established custom seems to have been undertaken merely for the sake of change. And, though I have used the metric system increasingly throughout my pharmaceutical career and have a built-in mental conversion mechanism which is fairly reliable, I still find unhelpful such descriptions as 63G, 127G, 283G and 453G, all of which appeared in today's shopping. The same disregard for tidiness applies to shampoos and aerosol containers. Admittedly, such figures are literal translations from Imperial weights and measures, but the way is being cleared for acceptance of "a packet", once the familiar descriptions vanish for ever, and the public, already sufficiently bemused with decimal coinage and such illuminating phrases as "at least 5p off recommended price," will be battered into economic insensibility.

And many of us no longer know where we live, far less where to find our friends by correspondence. BS16 6BQ does not trip off the tongue quite so readily as Mon Repos. Now we are faced with something called regionalisation, and such a description arouses the worst forebodings. Your editorial comment on branch boundaries is very much to the point. There seems no very good reason for the branch areas and the NHS areas to be coterminous, and in the past the Society has altered branches by enlarging or dividing, or merging in accordance with the convenience and the desires of those concerned.

I find it difficult to accept the virtual disappearance of true local authority into parts almost as remote, and as unconcerned, as Brussels. I resent it, just as I resent the length of a cricket pitch being 20.108 metres. But there are so many topics engaging our attention at present that some can slip by unnoticed. You have done a service by drawing attention to the matter and pointing out its implications.

Forward

One of the matters engaging our attention to the exclusion of others is that of the intentions of the Chancellor in relation to VAT. I took little consolation from the comment of the Prime Minister recently, on his return from the Dublin meeting, to the effect that while there were varying rates of tax in the Community, we did not necessarily have to follow the pattern adopted by others. That seemed a trifle negative. So meantime we have a photograph on p409 of what looks like a purposeful forward line of N.P. United bearing down on their goal, having successfully eluded a "stopper" on horseback brandishing a sword. I am not sure of the identity of the equestrian gentleman, though memory suggests he was that Richard who was once accused of bestowing upon England nothing but a contemptuous neglect and a heavy debt, and it may be, so far back does the National Debt go, that part of the VAT is needed for his excesses.

Omission

I question the value of the mountains of paper left at Westminster on so many occasions, and I very much question the understanding of those to whom it is delivered in this particular case. But anything which may help to halt the ill-judged proposals is worth trying—even to filling the Thames with fishing-boats. On receipt of information regarding the various schemes from which we might choose, I sent off an official card, filled in in the appropriate places, for further details, but there has been no reply. The card, so far as I remember was already addressed, though I omitted to check the BS16 6BQ part of it. That was very remiss.

The Prize



This is just one of the ways we're going to help you get even more mileage out of BAND-AID* plasters.

Nationally Advertised Consumer Competition

Your customers could win a VW Camper when they get their BAND-AID* plasters and an entry form from you!

Heavy TV Campaign

Will be seen by more than 90% of housewives!

Brand leader—washproof plasters

BAND-AID* plasters have more than half the washproof plaster market—and are still growing!

Don't miss the bandwagon—stock up with BAND-AID* plasters now!



BAND-AID*
BRAND

clear and washproof plasters

*Trade mark

Stock more Radox. Sell more Radox.



It's a fact.

If you're only stocking one or two Liquid Radox fragrances, you're losing out. Those chemists who stock all three achieve a 60% higher rate of sale.

You could do the same. And now's the time. Because the bright new two-colour packs are here. So are the big new 500cc economy packs. And the next national TV burst starts on April 21.

Place your order today. You owe it to yourself. **Nicholas**

Liquid Radox- the biggest one.



New products and packs

Cosmetics and toiletries

Pears launch shampoo

A. & F. Pears Ltd are launching a new shampoo nationally at the end of April. Pears shampoo is mild, as gentle as a baby's shampoo, say the makers, but lathers as well as a conventional adult shampoo. There are two variants—one for normal and dry hair, and one for greasy hair—and two sizes, 80cc (£0.24) and 130cc (£0.35). The shampoo is in plastic bottles—amber with a light brown cap for the greasy hair variant, and brown with a darker brown cap for the normal and dry hair variant.

To support the product launch, the makers are planning a £1.2 million campaign over the next eight months. The campaign includes television and women's magazine advertising. The television commercial has the theme: "New Pears shampoo . . . almost as gentle as rainwater", and combines the product's mildness with the family image of Pears.

Pears have produced in-store display material for the product and feature an introductory sampling offer of two sachets for the price of one. These come in a counter display unit. There are also launch bonuses for the trade.

The shampoos will also be distributed to 6 million households throughout the country in a sachet form. Each sachet comes in an envelope which contains a coupon offering 3p-off the next purchase (Elida Gibbs Ltd, PO Box 1DY, Portman Square, London W1AX 1DY).

Clinique roll-on antiperspirant

Clinique Laboratories Ltd have introduced an antiperspirant deodorant roll-on (£1.50) that is applied as a liquid and "goes from wet to dry, without passing through a sticky phase". The product is allergy-tested and fragrance free, and comes in a lightweight, plastic container (Clinique Laboratories Ltd, 72 Grosvenor Street, London W1).

Aerosol hair dressing

Wella (Great Britain) Ltd have introduced a Wella for Men aerosol for dry hair. Designed to give natural yet firm control, the hair spray contains ingredients to "revive natural shine in lifeless hair". The new aerosol dressing is available in 130g (£0.57) and 260g (£0.81) sizes packed in cartons of six.

At the same time, a "new look" has been given to Wella for Men liquid dressings. Packaged in 125cc shatter-proof plastic bottles, the Wella for Men dressings complete the new range "image". The liquid dressing has been re-named—regular—and re-formulated to "enhance



its qualities as an aid for shaping and styling a man's hair as it is dried after shampooing." Both regular and medicated dressings are packed in units of three 125cc bottles (£0.45) (Wella (Great Britain) Ltd, Wella Road, Basingstoke, Hampshire).

Balsam hair treatment

French of London have added a balsam hair treatment to their range. Packed in an opaque 128-cc bottle (£0.75), the makers are offering the trade an introductory 10 per cent discount on each order that includes 12 bottles of this product, until April 30. For the consumer, they offer a free sachet of their herb liquid shampoo with each bottle of the balsam treatment (French & Scott Ltd, 717 North Circular Road, London NW2 7AL).

Photographic

Cameras with dating feature

The Canon 110ED (£79.97), first shown at Photokina last year, is now being marketed in Britain. The camera, about $5\frac{1}{2} \times 2\frac{1}{4} \times 1\frac{1}{8}$ in and weighing 10½oz, incorporates a date imprinting facility, the date being set on dials on one side. The coated, 5 element, 26mm f2 lens can be focussed from 2ft to infinity. Coupled with an automatic aperture setting and electronic shutter arrangement, which can be pre-set for bright, dull, or flash conditions, the camera's automatic metering functions in the range 1/500sec at f16 to 8sec at f2 at 100ASA.

The viewfinder, with coupled rangefinder, includes an overexposure warning light and camera shake warning lamp/battery checker. There is also a sliding cover on the front of the camera for protection, and



a shutter button safety lock mechanism. The accessory shoe has a direct flash contact.

A small electronic flash unit has also been produced to compliment the camera. The Canolite ED (£14.95) has a flash duration of less than 1/1,000th sec with a recycling time of about 14 sec and guide number claimed to be 14/m at 100ASA. Weighing without batteries about 3¼oz, and measuring about $2\frac{1}{8} \times 2\frac{1}{4} \times 1\frac{1}{8}$ in, the unit is claimed to give 180 flashes with two penlight alkaline AM-3 batteries; nickel-cadmium batteries cannot be used and manganese batteries would affect performance. The unit also incorporates a manual conversion table for settings with ASA100 film. Flash synchronisation is by direct contact only.

A new 35mm camera incorporating the date-imprinting feature is the Canon Date-matic (£79.95). The dating mechanism imprints year, month and day or reference numbers on the lower right of the picture when the system is switched on. Measuring approximately $4\frac{5}{8} \times 3 \times 2\frac{1}{4}$ in and weighing 15½oz, the camera has a coated, 5 element, 40mm, f2.8 lens with coupled rangefinder. Focus zone marks shown on top of the lens barrel include a profile, a group of people and mountain scenery, and the distance scale (from 0.8m to infinity) is shown on the lower part of the lens barrel.

The built-in light meter controls the shutter and aperture over the range 4 sec at f2.8 to 1/800 sec at f13.5 at ASA100; manual aperture control is not possible. The viewfinder includes a slow shutter speed warning lamp and battery check lamp, and the position of the date im-

Continued on p447

Two NEW profit-makers to get your teeth into



Two new professional toothbrushes from the makers of Sensodyne toothpaste.

BONUS TERMS

Available on special introductory bonus terms. Good profit – 41.7% or 11p per brush, selling at the R.S.P. of £0.29 each.

Intensive promotion and sampling to all 17,000 dentists will lead to their recommendation of the toothbrushes and so their patients will come and ask for them by name.

Display and sell Sensodyne toothbrushes – recommended by dentists, sold by chemists.

NEW SENSODYNE GENTLE toothbrush

Specially designed by dentists for people with sensitive teeth and gums.

Ideal for those customers already using Sensodyne toothpaste.

NEW SENSODYNE PLAQUE REMOVER toothbrush

For routine family use. Similar to the 'Gentle' toothbrush but with a slightly firmer texture to provide extra cleaning power.

To: Stafford-Miller Ltd., Professional Relations Division, Hatfield, Herts.

Please send medozen Sensodyne toothbrush special display packs containing one dozen 'Gentle' and one dozen 'Plaque Remover' brushes. Normal buying price £4.51 + V.A.T. Special promotional price £3.76 + V.A.T. Profit Return £2.68

Invoice direct ☐

Invoice through my usual wholesaler who is

Name _____

Address _____

Stafford-Miller Quality Products for Dental Health

New products

Continued from page 445

printing is shown when the dating switch on the front of the camera is turned on. Other features include: direct contact terminal for "X" flash synchronisation, exposure counter, and self timer (J. J. Silber Ltd, 11 Northburgh Street, London EC1V 0AU).

Sundries

Firefly range

Jacquelle have introduced into their range for summer a collection of "linen look" cotton holdalls and purses called Firefly. They have a bright, geometric design print in washable cotton, is the most expensive line that Jacquelle have used to date, and some holdalls have a matching cosmetic zipped purse. Available in orange, blue and green, cosmetic purse prices range from £0.79 to £1.25 and the holdalls range from £1.50 to £3.99 (Jacquelle sales division, Jackel & Co Ltd, Kitty Brewster Estate, Newcastle upon Tyne, Northumberland NE24 4RG).

Household

Wizard on national release

A range of solid air fresheners has been launched nationally in the UK by E. R. Howard Ltd. Wizard, (£0.41) an American product, comes in three fragrances—rose, lemon and evergreen. On test market in the Southern television area since last May, the national launch will be supported by advertising in *Woman* and *Woman's Own* magazines this month and a national television campaign. The magazine advertisements feature a 5p coupon redeemable against the product. Other products already on sale in the range include an aerosol air freshener (£0.32½) (E. R. Howard Ltd, Howard House, Gippeswyk Avenue, Ipswich, Suffolk IP1 9AE).

Sports White from Dylon

Dylon International Ltd have introduced a new whitener for canvas and buckskin shoes. Dylon Super Sports White (£0.29) comes in a 150-ml pvc bottle, in half-dozen packed in a printed corrugated cardboard outer. The whitener is said to be easy to apply and dries to a "flake-resistant" finish. The makers are supporting its introduction with half-page advertisements in *The Cricketer's Spring Annual* and the May and June issues of the magazine (Dylon International Ltd, Lower Sydenham, London SE26 5HD).

Oral hygiene

Two new toothbrushes

Stafford-Miller Ltd have introduced two new Sensodyne toothbrushes. Gentle toothbrush is said to be designed by dentists for people with sensitive teeth and gums, and plaque remover toothbrush is for routine family use and has a slightly firmer texture. Both are £0.29.

The makers have produced display packs that hold both brushes and are offering introductory bonus terms worth 41.7 per cent or 11p per brush. They also plan a sampling scheme for dentists to gain their recommendation (Stafford-Miller Ltd, 166 Great North Road, Hatfield, Herts).

Trade News

'His and hers' unit

A counter display unit in mauve and black containing Gold Spot and Miss Gold Spot mouth fresheners, is being introduced by Ashe Laboratories Ltd, Kingston Road, Leatherhead, Surrey. This "his and hers" unit combines the aerosol with the pocket-size phials. Miss Gold Spot has been featured editorially in magazines and newspapers including *19*, *Petticoat* and *Woman's Own*. Advertising for Gold Spot includes half-page advertisements in *Woman*, *Woman's Realm* and *Cosmopolitan*.

Depo-Provera in 3ml pack

Upjohn Ltd, Fleming Way, Crawley, Sussex have introduced Depo-Provera 50mg/ml in a 3ml pack (£2.03 trade) for limited use as a short-term anti-fertility agent. The approved indications are: for wives of men undergoing vasectomy, where the sperm count has not fallen to zero; in puerperal women, an injection of Depo-Provera can be given early in the puerperium.

New dispenser

British Surgical Houses Ltd, 3 Miles Buildings, Bath, Somerset have produced an attractive dispenser for Earex swim-plugs. The dispenser holds five small, 10 medium and five large sizes. Refills of units of five will be available.

Bergasol advertising

Advertisements featuring the new suntan range—Bergasol—distributed by Chefaro Proprietaries Ltd, Crown House, London Road, Morden, Surrey will appear in *The Sun*, *The Daily Mail*, *The Daily Mirror*, and *The Daily Record* from the end of May. The advertisements state that Bergasol "maximises the sunbathing opportunities in Britain" and features a coupon which offers consumers two sachets of tanning oil from the makers.

Point of sale material for the range features a compact display unit which



holds the whole range, with a headboard incorporating a usage chart. There are also introductory trade discounts available.

Spillers money-off promotion

During April, Spillers Bonio original large and handy sizes will feature 4p and 2p money-off next purchase flashes, respectively. Spillers Ltd, Old Change House, Cannon Street, London EC4M 6XB are also offering 2p off the next purchase of their handy size Bonio cheese and beef varieties in London and the South.

Consumer support for Bristows

Beecham Proprietaries, Beecham House, Brentford, Middlesex are planning a national consumer campaign to support their new Bristows hairspray (last week, *Beauty Business* p20). The campaign will feature national television advertising, and full-page colour advertisements in leading women's magazines. For the trade, the makers are offering incentives and there will be a 22 million couponing operation through *Shopping* magazine. Point-of-sale material includes a range of colourful displays, a three-tier floor unit, pre-packed counter displays and shelf strips.

Four-tier floor stand

A four-tier floor stand displaying the full range of Ambre Solaire products has been produced by L'Oreal, Golden Ltd, 18 Bruton Street, London W1. The four tiers can hold just over 1½ gross of the packs, each dark amber tray taking all three packaging styles in the range. The stand is white plasticised steel, measuring 5ft 6in high by 1ft 8in wide. The headboard carries the name Ambre Solaire, the logo and the 1975 advertising message "the original—from France".

Colour Swinger advertising

Over 50 peak-time nationwide television commercials to introduce the range of new Colour Swinger cameras is promised by Polaroid (UK) Ltd, Ashley Road, St Albans, Herts, with the commercials to be screened April 21-July 20. In addition, there is to be a colour campaign in *Readers Digest*, *Radio Times* and *Daily Telegraph* and *Sunday Times* colour supplements, with 11 pages introducing the cameras, followed by another five demonstrating the new Polacolor 2 film in newspapers including *The Sun*, *Daily Express*, *Daily Mail* and *TV Times*, the theme will be to promote the low starting price of

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Trade news

Continued from p447

instant photography with the black and white Super Swinger. An early summer campaign for the SX-70 system is also promised for six "influential" publications.

Yeast Pac advertised

Cosmopolitan, She, Honey, Annabel, 19, True Story, True Romances, and Woman's Story will all carry full-page advertisements for Yeast Pac in May and June. In the advertisements, the makers, E. C. de Witt & Co Ltd, Seymour Road, London E10 7LX, underline the beneficial effects of the beauty masks by drawing the attention of the readers to the action of yeast in Champagne and bread making. The advertisements show a young girl's "flawless complexion" alongside a glass of sparkling Champagne and some fresh bread loaves.

Bonus Offers

Ashe Laboratories Ltd, Kingston Road, Leatherhead, Surrey. Amplex roll-on. 12 as 10.

British Surgical Houses Ltd, 3 Miles Buildings, Bath, Somerset. Earex swim-plugs. New dispenser pack (20 units) invoiced as 18 (April and May only). Orders through Ernest Jackson & Co Ltd, Crediton, Devon.

May & Baker Ltd, Dagenham, Essex RM10 7XS. Anthisan and Anthical. 10 as 9 on 25-g tubes of cream (until September 30). Higher bonus terms for larger quantities available from company's representatives.

on TV next week

Ln—London; M—Midland; Lc—Lancashire; Y—Yorkshire; Sc—Scotland; WW—Wales and West; So—South; NE—North-east; A—Anglia; U—Ulster; We—Westward; B—Border; G—Grampian; E—Eireann; CI—Channel Islands.

Aquafresh: All areas

Bristows shampoo & conditioner:

All except Ln

Contour slimming foods: M, Lc, Y, NE

Falcon: All areas

Grecian 2000: All except U

Limmits: All areas

Oil of Ulay: Y, NE

Old Spice: All areas

Philips Ladyshave: Ln, M, WW, So, A, We

Philishave: All areas

Q-Tips cotton buds: Ln, M, Lc, Y, WW, So

Rennie: All areas

Silvikrin hairspray & shampoo: All areas

Tegrin: Lc, Sc WW, So, We

Us hairspray: Lc

Us spray talc: Ln, M, Lc

Vaseline Intensive Care lotion: Ln, M, Lc, Y, So

Vosene: All except Ln

Prescription specialities

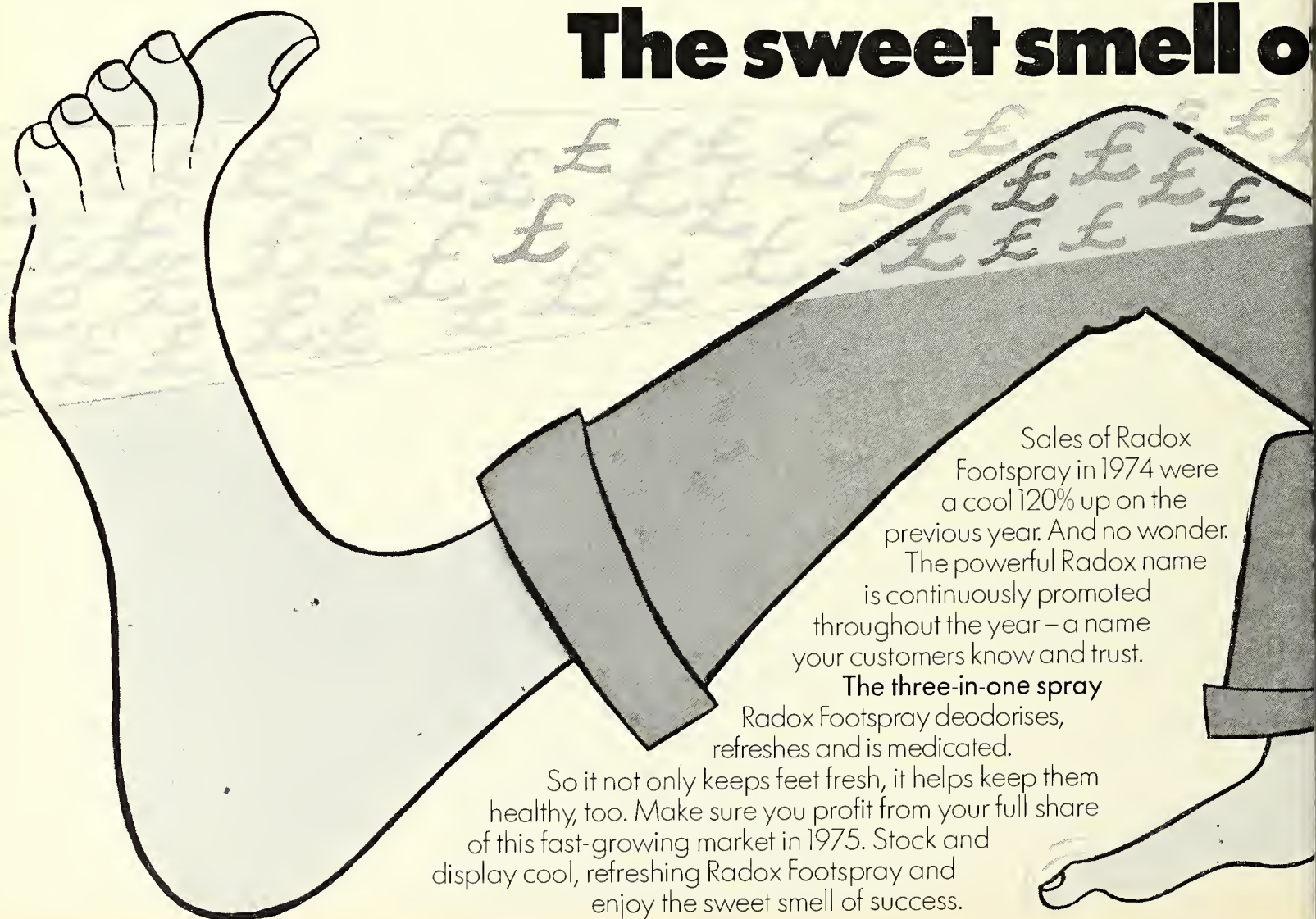
ALLPYRAL D. pteronyssinus

Manufacturer Dome Laboratories, division of Miles Laboratories Ltd, Stoke Court, Stoke Poges, Slough SL2 4LY

Description Sterile, pyridine-extracted, alum-precipitated antigen complex in suspension in 0.9 per cent saline containing 0.4 per cent phenol, and prepared from cultures of *Dermatophagoides pteronyssinus*. Initial treatment set contains three colour coded, graduated strength vials: Vial 1 (green label) contains extract of 100 protein nitrogen units per ml; vial 2 (blue label) 1,000 pnu/ml; vial 3 (brown label) 4,000 pnu/ml. Special dilution (orange label) vial 10 pnu/ml available for "extremely sensitive" patients

Indications Immunisation of patients whose allergy to house dust mite has been confirmed by skin testing

Dosage By subcutaneous injection only, usually in upper arm. Dosage instructions according to individual patient's requirements, prepared from information on order form. Initial treatment of 8-10 injections followed by maintenance treatment of repeat injections of top dose achieved, every 4-6 weeks



The sweet smell of

Sales of Radox Footspray in 1974 were a cool 120% up on the previous year. And no wonder. The powerful Radox name is continuously promoted throughout the year – a name your customers know and trust.

The three-in-one spray
Radox Footspray deodorises, refreshes and is medicated.

So it not only keeps feet fresh, it helps keep them healthy, too. Make sure you profit from your full share of this fast-growing market in 1975. Stock and display cool, refreshing Radox Footspray and enjoy the sweet smell of success.

Contraindications Pregnancy

Precautions Patients should not take strenuous exercise for some hours after injection. Children under 14 should be treated according to "very sensitive" and "extremely sensitive" dosage schedules. Dosage should be reduced if more than 6 weeks elapses between initial and maintenance courses

Side effects Systemic reaction, appearing 3-6 hours after injection, may last for 2-4 days but are usually controlled with antihistamines. Itching and swelling may remain for several days. See literature

Storage 2°-8°C. Do not freeze

Packs Three colour-coded graduated strength vials, with dosage schedule and sterile, disposable syringes and needles (£13.50 trade). Maintenance therapy 3x2ml vials, 4,000 pnu/ml (£18.64 per set)

Supply restrictions Recommended on prescription only. Issued April 1975

SECTRAL capsules and injection

Manufacturer May & Baker Ltd, Dagenham, Essex

Description Opaque buff/opaque white capsules, printed "Sectral 100", containing equivalent of acebutolol 100 mg as hydrochloride. Ampoules of 5ml of an 0.5 per cent w/v injection of acebutolol as hydrochloride

Indications Angina pectoris; control of tachy-arrhythmias

Contraindications Cardiogenic shock. Heart block, except first and perhaps second degree block. First trimester of pregnancy; iv use contraindicated in pregnancy.

Dosage *Angina pectoris*: 200mg twice daily. Up to 300mg three times daily may be required; up to 1,200mg daily has been used. *Cardiac arrhythmias*: 25mg intravenously, preferably over 3-5 minutes. May be followed by further 25mg, preferably over an hour or more. The more benign arrhythmias usually respond to 5-15mg iv with an effect lasting 30-50 minutes. Orally, may take about 3 hours to exert full effect, thereafter action can be maintained by 100mg three times daily or 200mg twice daily; some patients may require 600mg daily in divided doses

Precautions Care if blood pressure 100/60 or below. Care in intravenous administration to asthmatics; in bradycardia, when used with catecholamine-depleting drugs such as reserpine, in heart failure, and metabolic acidosis. Should be discontinued 24-48 hours before anaesthesia unless use essential

Side effects Hypotension, bradycardia, gastro-intestinal effects and depression have been seen infrequently

Dispensing diluent Normal saline or dextrose saline

Packs Capsules 100mg (100, £3.50 trade; 500, £16.50). Box of 10x5ml ampoules (£4.60)

Supply restrictions Recommended on prescription only

Issued April 1975

Notes Acebutolol is a beta-adrenoceptor blocking agent with selectivity in blocking cardiac sites in preference to bronchial sites, anti-arrhythmic properties, intrinsic sympathomimetic action and membrane stabilising action

CALMODEN capsules

Manufacturer Berk Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Station Road, Shalford, Surrey

Description 5mg: yellow capsule marked "Berk 5" containing chlordiazepoxide 5mg. 10mg: green capsule marked "Berk 10" containing chlordiazepoxide 10 mg

Indications etc As for chlordiazepoxide

Packs Capsules 5mg (1,000, £4.56 trade) and 10mg (1,000, £5.74)

Supply restrictions PI, S4B

Issued April 1975

DEPAMINE capsules

Manufacturer Berk Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Station Road, Shalford, Surrey

Description Orange and yellow capsules marked DPM 125 containing 125mg D-penicillamine as base

Indications etc As penicillamine

Packs 100 capsules (£5.56 trade)

Supply restrictions Recommended on prescription only

Issued April 1975

DOMICAL tablets

Manufacturer Berk Pharmaceuticals Ltd, Station Road, Shalford, Surrey

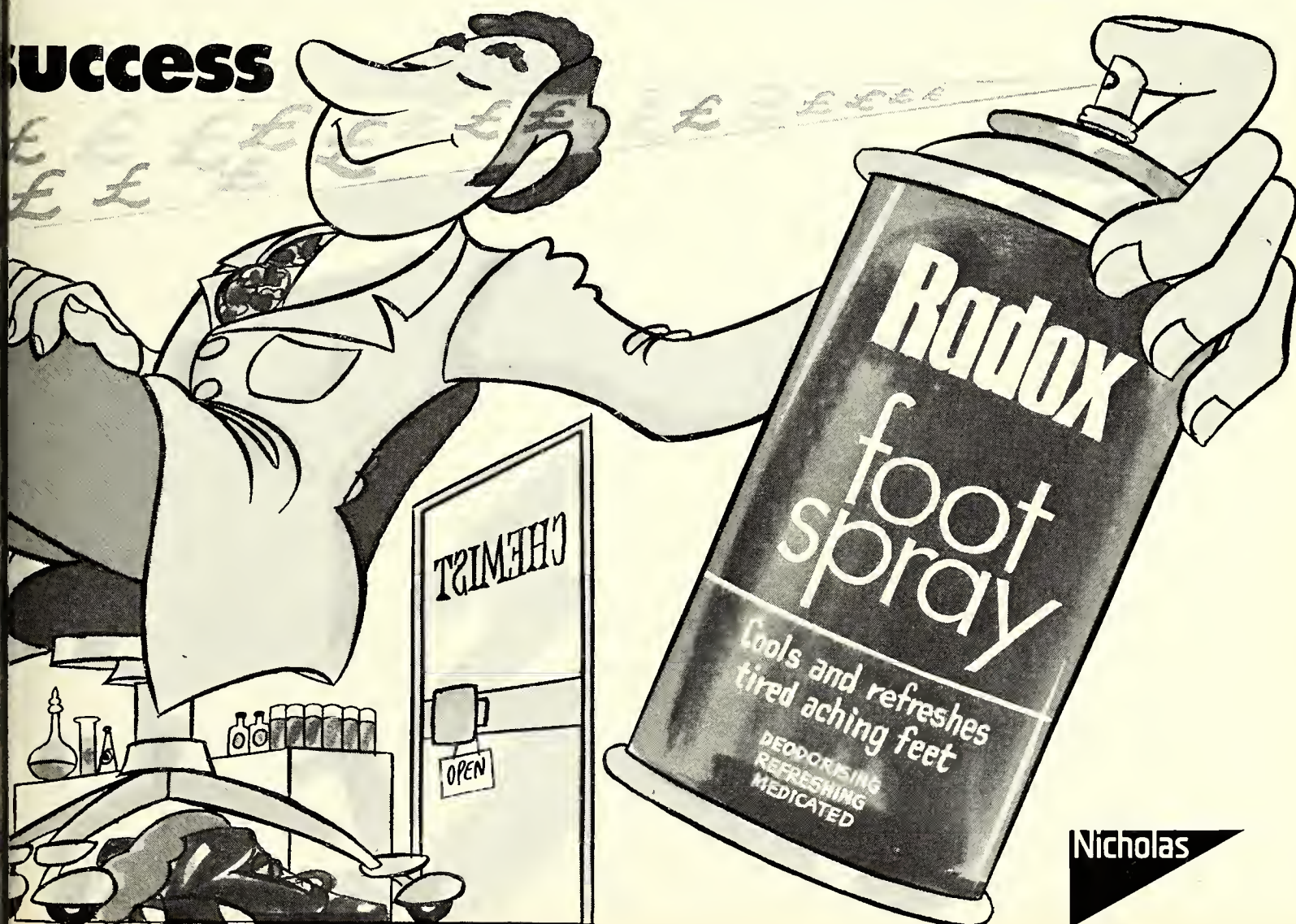
Description 10mg: blue, film-coated tablet, marked "D", containing amitriptyline 10mg. 25mg: orange, film-coated tablet, marked "D" containing amitriptyline 25mg.

Indications etc As for amitriptyline

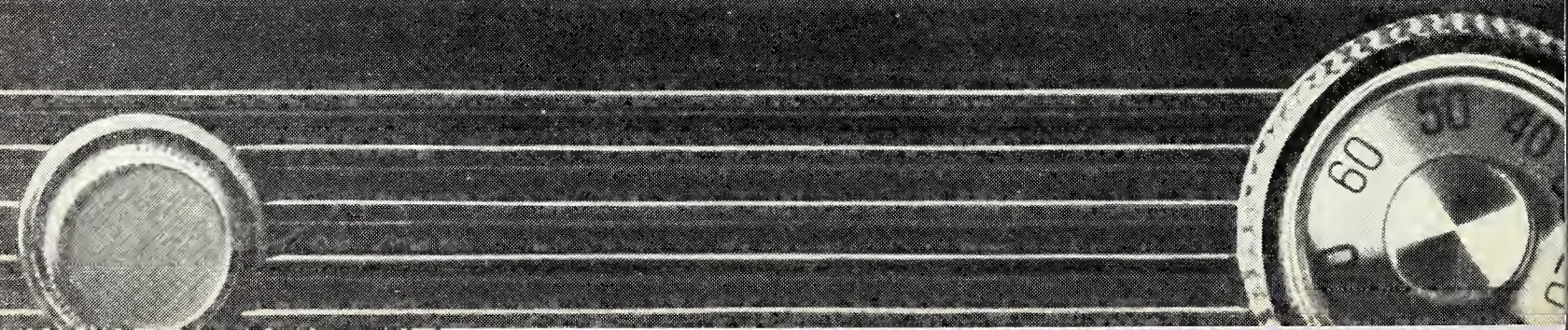
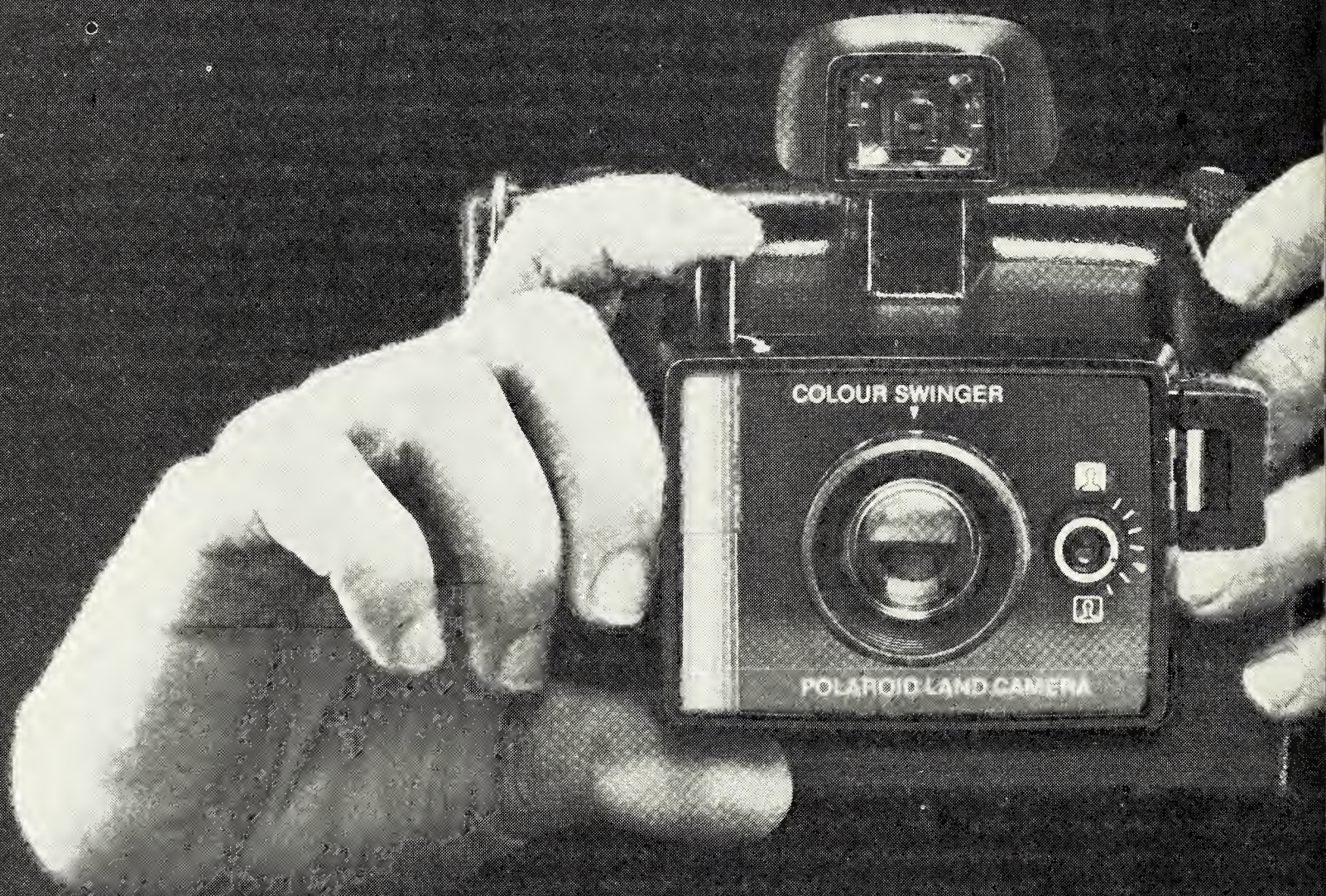
Packs Tablets 10mg (500, £2.09 trade) and 25mg (500, £4.24)


Supply restrictions PI, S4B

Issued April 1975



Nicholas





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British Society for the History of Pharmacy

Pharmacy at the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary

The second conference paper* given by Mrs P. M. Eaves-Walton was culled from the records of the Edinburgh Royal Infirmary, founded in 1729. It was titled "Some connections between Pharmacy and the Royal Infirmary".

The Edinburgh Infirmary or Hospital for Sick Poor was opened to patients on August 6, 1729, being incorporated by Charter as the Royal Infirmary of Edinburgh seven years later. The original hospital was a small house standing at the head of, and looking down, Robertson's Close. Directly opposite was an orchard and at the back of the house was the College (or University) garden, in which the patients were allowed to walk.

From 1736 an appeal was launched for funds to construct a large purpose-built Infirmary. A site was acquired just adjacent to the little house and the foundation stone was laid in 1738 of an impressive building designed by William Adam, the well-known Scottish architect, father of the brothers Adam, who added the finishing touches.

First aim

The Edinburgh Infirmary was the first voluntary hospital in Scotland. The aim from the beginning was a teaching hospital to be developed in conjunction with the University's Faculty of Medicine created in 1726. The inspiration was derived mainly from Leyden University. John Monro, Edinburgh surgeon, who made the first public appeal for the foundation of a hospital had studied there.

In promoting the Infirmary the members of the College of Physicians and the surgeons saw the creation in a small geographical area of a medical centre such as that which had impressed them at Leyden. This concept included, of course, the encouragement of a high standard of teaching and practice in the various aspects of pharmacy and certain initial problems arose.

First of all, *who* was going to provide the medicines needed for the hospital and dispense those prescribed by the physicians for the patients? In January 1729 Mr Monro, surgeon, offered to provide medicines for the first year at cost price.

In April 1729 he was one of a committee of three physicians and three surgeons who compiled an inventory of medicines that would be needed. However, in July an arrangement was made with six individual surgeon-apothecaries—Francis Congalton, George Cunningham, John Douglas, Robert Hope, John McGill and Monro himself—to attend the hospital during the year, in turn. They offered to dispense out of their own shops, during their individual periods of atten-

dance, the medicines prescribed by the physicians for the sick poor. So, it was not necessary to accept Monro's first offer, and it appears that the surgeons did, in fact, supply *all* the medicines required, "simple and compounded". The Infirmary needed only to purchase linen for dressings, and, as this was then a very expensive item, from 1748 advertisements were put in the newspapers and handbills delivered round the town requesting old linen for the purpose.

From 1741 approximately twenty surgeons shared attendance at the hospital and the dispensing of medicines.

Three years later a committee was set up to take measures to erect an apothecary's shop within the Infirmary and provide "a fit person to have care thereof, so that the patients may be more easily accommodated with medicines within the house". This committee went to sleep, but was prodded awake in 1747, and by the end of that year Mr Petrie and Mr Sutherland, clerks in the house, were taking it in turns, a month at a time, to keep the surgeon's shop and dispense the medicines. During alternate months they continued with the many duties of the clerk—keeping the records and treating the patients in the wards.

It was laid down that the apothecary in charge of the shop "shall be one educated in pharmacy who is unmarried and lives in the Infirmary without any other Business". A later incumbent was indeed dismissed because he got married. With the permission of the managers the apothecary could attend the University lectures, so the job at this period became one by which a young man who had completed his apprenticeship to a surgeon could support himself while taking lectures.

Apprentice in uniform

In 1748 a sixteen year-old boy was taken on as apprentice in the shop. The first apprentice was Adam Sloss, for who a coloured fustian frock coat with slit sleeves was provided. After his four-year apprenticeship he stayed on as assistant until he went to England in 1754. In 1750 Mr Petrie resigned. His successor, Thomas Livingstone, after a short time left to become a surgeon at Aberdeen Infirmary, leaving Mr Sutherland on his own. The system of alternating clerk and apothecary was at this point abandoned. In 1752 Mr Short, recommended by the Earl of Hopetoun, a substantial donor to the hospital, was appointed as full-time apothecary, and took over a shop with resident assistant and apprentice.

In 1735 it was agreed to pay the surgeons £3 sterling for medicine for each bed in the Infirmary. However, no such payment seems in fact to have been made. When the new Infirmary was opened to

patients in December, 1741, thirty-four patients were cared for at once, but there was by then a larger number of surgeons to bear the cost of medicines. In 1744 when a total of 165 ordinary in-patients were treated, Dr Lermont was authorised to provide a quantity of herbs and medicines for ready use within the house for which the Infirmary would pay—it seems that Dr Lermont made a gift of these, as no payment is recorded.

Undoubtedly the committee for setting up the Apothecary's Shop was prodded back into action in 1747 by pressure to relieve the surgeons of the expense of furnishing medicines, the number of patients being on the increase again after the upheaval of the Jacobite Rising. The sum of £10 to £16 was assigned initially for setting up the shop.

The first recorded purchase of equipment was of a large metal mortar with an iron pestle and wooden stand for £12.6.0—from Gilbert Laurie, a surgeon-apothecary. In April 1748, the Infirmary was able to buy a quantity of "pharmaceutical furniture" at Dr John Boswell's roup, or auction sale.

The need for economy led the managers in 1752 to apply for a lease *gratis* of the Physic Garden near the College—this had been used by the Professors of Medicine and was situated on the other side of the Infirmary's west boundary wall. It was thought that the apothecary could grow his own green medicines—herbs and roots—and save the expense on these which had grown to £15 a year.

Returned empties

Again in the interests of economy, in 1749 out-patients were requested to give back glasses, pots and, if possible, bandages received from the Infirmary. It was proving very difficult to ensure that clerks or apothecary kept records of all the medicines handed over to out-patients and in 1754 the managers decided to discontinue furnishing medicines to out-patients. This was to mean the end of out-patient attendances for many years until in the 19th century the practice of seeing such patients again developed gradually and at first unofficially.

The basic contribution towards solving the problem of costs was of course economy in prescribing—that ever-recurring phrase—which made its first appearance in the Infirmary's records very soon after the foundation of the hospital. The physicians must use the formulae for medicines *proper to hospital practice*. In 1741 the Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh was requested to concert a dispensatory of proper formulae for the use of the Infirmary, and the first manuscript edition became ready in 1742. As this and subsequent editions printed from 1752 of the *Pharmacopoeia Pauperum in usum Nosocomii Eegii Edinburgensis* appeared, there were frequent instructions to the physicians and surgeons to adhere to these formulae, indicating a tendency to do otherwise.

The apothecary had a certain amount of petty cash which he could spend on regular purchases—most usually grey and white paper; dry pitch, tar and tallow; linseed; raisins and figs; lemon juice; sugar candy; corks. Wines and spirits

Continued on p454

* First paper appeared in C&D, March 29, p411.

Edinburgh Royal Infirmary pharmacy

Continued from p453

were also bought regularly—brandy at 2/2d per pint, claret and other wines. Larger purchases were on credit—first of all herbs and plants. The first bills in 1747 were for “garlic heads; camomile flowers; hysop; althea; carduus; wormwood, sage; rue, mint.”

A large purchase was of 6 gross of poppy heads. Suppliers were James Birrell, gardener, William Mason, gardener at Dalry, and Alexander Gray, gardener at Fountainbridge. In due course they, in particular, Birrell, provided plants for the Infirmary's own garden.

For other drugs and chemicals the Infirmary depended at this early period on Gilbert Laurie, chemist and druggist, of Scott and Laurie. Their premises were not very many yards from the Infirmary gates and, indeed, for a period they had been using a ward in the hospital as a warehouse. (This was part of the manager's policy of letting out empty wards in the as yet over-large hospital to supplement Infirmary income until they could afford to fill them with beds and patients).

There are complete detailed bills for seven years, from 1747 to 1754—available in the Infirmary archives.

First qualified resident

With the opening to patients of the new Infirmary in 1741 there was appointed a Clerk to the House—the first being Mr McKinlay. He was the first medically qualified resident member of the staff. His main job was to keep the patients' registers and case histories. He also wrote down in a book the prescriptions and directions given for each patient by the physician on his round. When the apprentices to the visiting surgeon (who was supplying the medicines) came to the ward with their master they were given the book to copy out the prescriptions to take away to their shops to make up the medicines. They handed the book on to the matron so that she could instruct the nurses regarding the giving of the medicines and each patient's diet.

When the apprentices returned later in the day with each medicine labelled with the patient's name, bed number and directions, the paper, pot or glass was put in the patient's closet. It was apparently realised that this system had its dangers, and it was laid down that the returning apprentices should hand in the medicines to the Clerk, not to the Ward, and the Clerk became responsible for giving the medicines on his ward visits.

In 1747 McKinlay was dismissed and his place was taken by two Clerks to the House who were to take it in turns to be Clerk and apothecary. With the infirmary dispensing its own medicines the prescriptions signed by the physicians were handed in to the shop. When made up the medicines were put in the appropriate box in the nurses' baskets which they delivered to and collected from the shop during each day. The Clerk supervised the giving of the medicines. Various rules were reiterated from time to time no doubt because they were not always

obeyed—prescriptions *must* be properly labelled, signatures *must* be given for the same medicine to be renewed.

To begin with the surgeons brought their own instruments, then gradually a collection was got together from gifts and purchases. When clerk and apothecary became separate individuals, the dressings and instruments became the responsibility of the clerk. As the number of patients in the hospital increased different clerks were appointed to the medical and surgical wards, and the instruments were the responsibility of the surgeon's clerk.

As the 18th century proceeded the

duties of the apothecary remained much the same. The emphasis was on pharmacy and running the shop but he still worked in close co-operation with the clerks with whom he had initially been identified. As their work in the wards increased he took over some of the clerical work, the keeping of the general register of admissions to all the wards—and he had custody of completed ward ledgers and journals.

Eventually new appointments were made to the resident staff of the Infirmary and these extra responsibilities were given to someone else. The apothecary emerged in the 19th century as the Dispenser.

150 years of the Edinburgh Pharmacopoeia

The first paper of the Sunday morning session of the conference, was by Professor D. Cowen who reviewed “The Edinburgh Pharmacopoeia” which for more than 150 years was the responsibility of a special committee of the Royal College of Physicians who were often derogatory of the capabilities of the pharmaceutical practitioner. The preface to the second edition (1722) stated “lest . . . through the unskilfulness of Apothecaries the life of the patient should be endangered or the hopes of the physician frustrated.”

Professor Cowen said “the Pharmacopoeia is a significant landmark in the history of pharmacy because as George Urdang has pointed out, it was based on the presupposition of ‘the separation of medicine from pharmacy as a matter of principle.’ It has been said that the first Edinburgh Pharmacopoeia (1699) was issued to meet the need that developed as the apothecary ‘confined himself to the preparation and composition of medicines which the physician prescribed’. From the first edition in 1699 to the last in 1841, the *Pharmacopoeia Edinburgensis* presents a long, unbroken source for the study of the history of pharmacy and medicine.”

Professor Cowen mentioned that the Pharmacopoeia was the first recorded item of business in the extant minutes of the Royal College, and was probably conceived as a weapon in the struggle for the control of pharmacy. The pharmacopoeia was ready for the printer in 1683 but a Dr Robert Sibbald recorded that the publication was prevented by the “malice” and obstruction of a “faction.” Precisely what was involved is not known. There were great similarities between the London and the Edinburgh pharmacopoeias but there were also differences. Moreover, the College began a detailed study of the items to go into the Pharmacopoeia at least as early as 1697, which belies the charge of its being simply a copy of the London work.

Simples

Until 1774 the Pharmacopoeia was divided into three parts. The first was a list of “simples”, usually about 50 pages, subdivided into those of vegetable, animal, and mineral origin. The second, usually of about 150 pages, contained preparations subdivided into 17 or 18 such categories as tinctures, powders and electuaries. Finally, there were about 50 pages devoted to chemical remedies. In the sixth edition (1774), however, significant changes were made. The first part became the “Materia Medica” arranged alphabetically and in-

cluding “those preparations which are not prepared by an apothecary but ought to be always on hand in his shop.” The former second and third parts were merged into one called “Preparations and Compositions”, now divided into 24 groups.

In the 1699 Pharmacopoeia 22 pages were devoted to the simples, the largest portion being those of vegetable origin, divided into various categories such as roots, leaves, flowers and woods. They also included fungus of the larch, fungus of the elder, the burr of the dog rose, mistletoe of the oak, together with animal simples: “animals, their parts, excrements, and things derived from them in some way.” The list starts with bees and millipedes.

The list of simples concluded with items from the sea; salts and official earths, and stones and metals. Professor Cowen said “Before we make too harsh a judgement on Dr Sibbald and his colleagues, it needs to be noted that the subsequent editions shortened the list of animal simples. The preparations made with these simples emphasise the practice of polypharmacy of which the most important were Mithridatum and the Theriacs, some of which had over 50 ingredients.

“These elegant pharmaceuticals, which most certainly must have put the art of the apothecary to the test, were aptly called ‘terrible messes of altogether’ by the sharp-tongued Nicholas Culpeper.”

However, the Mithridatum and the Theriac of Andromachus disappeared from the fifth edition (1756), undoubtedly as a consequence of William Heberden's *Antitheriaca* published in 1794. The fifth edition proudly boasted that it had banished medicines retained through “superstition”, “credulity” and “established custom”. It did not eliminate all the useless substances that were traditional in one fell swoop, but Professor Cowen said that the edition was “impressive enough to be reprinted abroad at least four, and possibly eight times”.

As the 18th century unfolded, the new sciences of biology and chemistry exerted their impact on pharmacy and the sixth edition (1774) introduced the nomenclature of Linnaeus' *Species Plantarum* and his *Systema Natura*. In the ninth edition (1803) Lavoisier's terminology was introduced and the chemical responsibilities of the pharmacist are evident. The galenic pharmacist had given way to the chemist.

The twelfth and last edition of the Edinburgh Pharmacopoeia appeared in 1841. No further editions appeared in expectation of the British Pharmacopoeia.

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The support.

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Planning the art of modernising the past

Company profile

TAYLOR OF LONDON

When Michael Stewart-Smith took over the "establishment" English perfumery house of Taylor of London in 1963 it was occupying the same premises in Mortimer Street that it had since it had been founded by John Noakes Taylor in 1887. At that time and until World War II, it was in a select shopping area, but in the changed character of London's West End after the war it was no longer in a district frequented by customers of Taylor of London or potential customers. Besides patronage by post and "word of mouth" recommendation, Taylor of London's fragrances were unknown.

It was a chance visit to the shop to buy scent for a girl friend which led to Michael Stewart-Smith's purchase of the business from the then proprietor, Stanley Taylor, son of the founder. The quality of the fragrances and the character of the business intrigued him with its possibilities. Mr Taylor, having no one in his family interested in carrying on with the business, agreed to sell and also to stay on as advisor to this young Englishman who was eager to maintain the standards of the firm.

At 27, Michael Stewart-Smith planned a modern marketing strategy for the rejuvenation of Taylor of London. One of his first steps was to move the shop from Mortimer Street to Sloane Street in Knightsbridge.

Art nouveau labels

Onto the shelves of the new perfumery shop in Sloane Street went the old glass bottles with their art nouveau labels and containing the scents and ingredients for the English flower perfumes—lily of the valley, red rose, wallflower; the gentlemen's toilet waters—eau de Portugal, lavender water. In were moved the partner's desk and the safe containing the locked, leather-bound book in which were the formulae for all the Taylor of London fragrances written by Mr Taylor's hand or by that of his father. The large wooden boxes for storing the pot-pourri came too, and the teak platform on which the dried petals were heaped. A huge Wedgwood pestle and mortar was placed where the spices for the pomander fillings could be ground. Mr Stuart-Smith commissioned Wedgwood to adapt one of their designs in blue Jasper Ware into a pomander and a pot-pourri bowl and also a china pomander in their pattern, "Hathaway rose".

In 1964, the Shakespeare Birthday Trust, which was preparing for the Shakespeare tercentenary celebrations in Stratford-upon-Avon, asked Taylor of London to supply strewing-herbs, pomanders and pot-pourri, knowing they used only the traditional and authentic



Victorian and Edwardian labels

ingredients. Michael Stewart-Smith saw in this event an opportunity to make these traditional English fragrances into desirable, fashionable gifts of the highest quality. He put Taylor of London pot-pourri into clear boxes so the colourful mixture could be seen, tied them with ribbon and sealed them with the Taylor of London seal. He introduced a range of sachets and created the market for them.

Up until that time pomanders were almost unobtainable. Those that were to be found were mostly in coarse pottery and sold in the "tea shoppes" in the West Country. Taylor of London presented their pomanders in Wedgwood, in special gift boxes, elevating their status to a high-quality product. Because they were sold only at the Shakespeare Celebrations and at the Taylor of London shop or through selected shops, the pattern of prestige selling was established and has been the policy of marketing Taylor of London fragrances ever since.

A small sales staff introduced Taylor of London fragrances to prestige stores and shops and National Trust property gift shops. They are still sold on an exclusive basis today, limiting agencies, and discriminating in choice of outlets, of which some 1,000 are chemists.

Michael Stewart-Smith took over the company at the right time. The early sixties brought a revival of "natural" products, especially among the young whose life-style rejected the mass-produced, so that the products' traditional herbal or folklore appeal was in demand. Since then Taylor of London's fragrances have been imitated, the style of their English bone china pomanders copied, but they remain the market leaders.

In 1967 Michael Stewart-Smith joined a British National Export Mission to participate in British Weeks in Toronto and Dallas. After a successful introduction in the Canadian market he flew to

39 cities in the United States. In each city he looked for the right store to sell his English quality fragrances. Three months later he followed up his orders by calling at each store to see how sales had gone. He was welcomed with amazed surprise, so rarely were visits from British exporters in a strange new market followed up at all. American buyers were impressed by a principal taking this trouble to look into the actual selling, delivery and acceptance of his merchandise. In most cases larger repeat orders were taken. But in all cases he found that to enlist the enthusiasm of the sales staff was vital. These charming but unfamiliar English fragrances needed to have their historical background explained if they were to stand a chance in the strident competition of American retailing.

By 1970 the business had outgrown its London premises. A factory was found in Alresford, Hampshire, while the shop remained in Sloane Street. Today an additional storey is being added to this factory to cope with the increase of business, nearly half of which is exported. Agents in Holland, Belgium, Switzerland, France, Australia, New Zealand and even Fiji and the West Indies, as well as in North America and the Middle East, distribute the fragrances of Taylor of London.

Horse-drawn brougham

The prestige and tradition of the company is reflected by the sight of their elegant horse-drawn brougham making its rounds on the streets of London's West End and Whitehall. The primrose yellow and black coach with its liveried coachman is one of the most photographed sights of the London scene. People turn their heads or stop and look back to a more elegant age and remind themselves of a more gracious past. Taylor of London traditional English fragrances perpetuate one pleasant contribution of that era.

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Of course, now that we are clearing the supply backlog Griptight's traditional polystyrene soothers with cherry and olive teats are freely available. The usual excellent discounts apply.

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Letters

The moratorium: a worthless straw

I find it a matter of regret that the Lincolnshire area pharmaceutical officer is looking for such an easy way out of his coordinating duties. His job is to ensure that every patient, including the rural patient, has available the best possible dispensing service—not a “heads I win, tails you lose” one which depends on doctors deciding which scripts their unqualified staff are “capable” of doing and which script regrettably will have to be sent to the nearest fast-dying rural pharmacy because it is too difficult”.

If he supports this red herring, proposed by the doctors, then it should be his duty as an officer of the Area Health Authority to ensure that a pharmacist is in charge of each doctor's dispensary. Only in this way can I see any foundation for the claim that the “moratorium” will halve the number of dispensing doctors.

If a “new town” is planned in Lincolnshire, is the APHO going to condone continued doctor dispensing with no pharmacy in the village which may be chosen to be the nucleus of the “new town”? Assuming that new doctors would be needed to match the increased population are they to be compelled to dispense because no pharmacy can be set up to dispense for that area?

If Mr Cook were to be transferred to Devon what would be his solution to the problem of Barnstaple now that the town has grown beyond the mile limit?

The very limited progress that the Society has made, and is not now prepared to throw away, is that the doctors have been forced to offer us this “moratorium”. As a “pay-off”, however, it is pathetically short of the aim of all rural pharmacists and we must continue to keep our sights set high.

The short-sighted Lincolnshire pharmacists should not be clutching at worthless straws (for they will still drown) but should be persevering—remembering that the “Lincolnshire poachers” are the doctors who we intend to chase off pharmacy's “game reserve”.

Perhaps the “with it” candidates from the area would be better directing their energies to working out a “gamekeeper” consortium to help keep faltering rural pharmacists from drowning, rather than taking ill-aimed “pot-shots” at their profession's leaders. Maybe they could even negotiate to get repayment of 70 per cent of the pharmacists' salaries.

A. O. Bond
Baltonsborough, Somerset

Involving employees

May I, through the medium of the correspondence column, be allowed to clarify the current activities of the Joint Boots

Pharmacists Association. Since formation in June 1973, we have increased our membership from nine to 24 Associations within the Boots Company, one of our current priorities being to further encourage the formation of new associations in different parts of the UK.

We are supporting the attempt of Henry Howarth (Nottingham) and Tom Owen (Stockport) to be elected to Council in the forthcoming election. We are currently attempting to stimulate the formation of a National Association for General Practice Employee Pharmacists, and to this end we are meeting groups of employees from the other major company chemists. We are finding that communication with other employees is a major problem in that we are still viewed with suspicion by some employers as they suspect ulterior motives. I would like to make it quite clear that we are concerned only with securing adequate representation within the Society, and to encourage more involvement of employees in pharmaceutical affairs.

The columns of the professional journals are bulging at the seams with letters of complaint, covering a variety of subjects, the majority of which appear to be criticisms of Council. As a profession we get the Council we deserve when only 35 per cent of the membership take the trouble to vote. In our activities we are attempting to involve more employees of the major company chemists in the Society and pharmaceutical affairs, a task which we hope will attract the support of pharmacists from other branches of the profession. Involvement of employee pharmacists in the Society can only be to our mutual benefit.

Keith V. Mortimer
Publicity Officer JBPA
Oxford

Appreciated

Having now virtually retired from business, I would very much like to thank you for the prompt service in regularly supplying copies in the past years and for the help which I have found from your price lists and amendments, most particularly for the invaluable drug names with their proprietary equivalents. These, to me, have on many occasions proved to be a boon indeed — CL.

Opium crop substitute

The Tropical Products Institute are sending an expert in agricultural economics, Mr P. Boustead, to Thailand to assist that country's government on the marketing of agricultural produce. He will be working in the hill tribes area of Northern Thailand where the Thai Government is developing alternative crops to opium—previously widely grown in the area.

Mr Boustead will be formulating a preliminary marketing plan to guide the experimental agricultural work being undertaken and the marketing of crop's currently in production. He will also be examining the need to set up a marketing agency or intelligence unit to continue the kind of work after he returns from his four-month assignment.

Paid maternity leave proposed in new Bill

Increased rights for employees, including paid maternity leave with a guaranteed job on return, are proposed in the Employment Protection Bill published last week (HM Stationery Office, £1.35).

Some of the proposals were first outlined last year in a consultative document (C&D, September 21, 1974, p406). The Bill provides that dismissal of an employee because she is pregnant shall be unfair dismissal and gives her right to complain to an industrial tribunal. Her employer would be required to give maternity pay for up to six weeks providing she was employed up to the beginning of the 11th week before the expected week of confinement and had been continuously employed by him for at least two years. The payment would be the difference between her normal full week's pay and the amount of maternity allowance and earnings-related supplement payable to her under the Social Security Act 1973.

The Bill provides for her re-instatement in the same or similar job within 29 weeks of the date of confinement and that the dismissal of an employee taken on as her replacement would be regarded as fair.

Other provisions of the Bill include:
☐ An employee shall be entitled to a guarantee payment by his employer if he is not provided with work by his employer on a day when he would normally be required to work.

☐ Employers would be required to give employees, on request, a written statement of reasons for their dismissal.

☐ Employers would be required to give employees itemised statements of pay which distinguish between gross earnings, net pay and fixed and variable deductions. Fixed deductions may be given as a 12-monthly statement.

☐ Employees are given a right of recourse to the Redundancy Fund for arrears of wages following insolvency of the employer.

☐ The number of hours an employee has to work to qualify for protection against unfair dismissal, redundancy payments and contracts of employment rights are reduced.

☐ The Bill establishes the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service on a Statutory basis and sets up a Central Arbitration Committee.

Free condoms from pharmacies?

Is it impossible for the DHSS to devise a system of distributing condoms free of charge from pharmacies? asks Caroline Woodroffe, vice-chairman, Birth Control Campaign, in a letter to last week's *Pulse*. Condoms are available free on prescription from family planning clinics and the DHSS recognises the importance of encouraging their widespread use, she says, but why should doctor time be involved?

Open Shop

by E. C. Tenner

Dr Jekyll and Dr Hyde

If the medical practitioners do decide to go out on strike then I, for one, will have the greatest sympathy for the unfortunate patients. It will, however, have its funny side, because suddenly it will not be necessary to have an appointment system, and it will be possible to see the doctor at once. Instead of having difficulty in persuading him to call, it will become difficult to keep him away, and night calls will be transformed into—"of course, you were right to call me" instead of "how dare you call me!"

Perhaps we may even see, as we did in the past, the doctor anxiously looking to see if the surgery across the road is closed or not, in case they miss a patient. When it is all settled and the doctors are back at work in the Health Service, it will be like the end of the ball for the poor patient Cinderella and we will be back to the harsh reality of the less than compassionate treatment that now obtains at some surgeries.

Abortion

Those who seek to amend the Abortion Act and make it more difficult for women to obtain abortions, may care to ponder the fact that the choice is not as clear-cut as one may think, unless women have changed their attitude over the few years since David Steele's Bill became an Act of Parliament.

Tightening controls will not stop abortions but merely drive women back to illegal means of trying to obtain them. Pharmacists will remember the sales, before action by the Society stopped them, of pills consisting of aloes and pennyroyal labelled "for delayed periods", which were taken in doses many times that recommended on the box in the hope of aborting the foetus. If they ever did work it was only because so many were taken that a general poisoning of the woman resulted in rejection of the foetus.

When this type of preparation failed then the next logical step was to the drug store, where expensive products of the same formula, labelled "Perles pour les Dames" were sold at 25 shillings, "strong" at 50 shillings, and "extra strong" at £5 a box. When all these failed then the backstreet abortionist, some of whose inexperienced ministrations resulted in injury or death, could be found. Is the return to these days an advance in social legislation? I say no!

CD legislation

A script was presented the other day calling for pethidine 50mg and asking us to supply 15 of these. When we phoned the doctor asking him whether injections or tablets were required and pointing out that the prescription was illegal, as he had not stated the preparation, we were accused of being pedantic and subjected to some

abuse, although in the end we did obtain an amended, correct prescription.

Are we supposed to phone the Home Office about this kind of doctor or tell our local control drug officer? If we do so, then evidence of a wrongly written prescription which would convict him, could also convict us for illegally dispensing it. What do the Home Office intend to do about it? They should instruct the DHSS officer to have a word with the consistently-offending practitioners to convince

Concessions on medicines licence fees

The Medicines (Fees) Regulations 1975 (HM Stationery Office, SI No 366; £0.20) published last week replace the Medicines (Fees) Regulations 1971 and allow new concessions to licence holders on payment of fees without increasing the previous scale of fees.

As before, the regulations provide for the payment of fees by installments and refund of fees in certain circumstances, and the new concessions include the payment of a single annual fee for any number of licences of the same type held by the same person, for certain specified reliefs for businesses with a small turnover, for reduced fees for manufacturer's licences in respect of certain retail suppliers, and more flexibility in the calculation of fees charged where there is transfer of responsibility for a product from one person to another. The regulations come into force on April 14.

A Schedule to the regulations states that in the case of the manufacturer's licence limited to the manufacture of one or more medicines which are exempt from the need for product licences under the Medicines (Exemption from Licences) (Special and Transitional Cases) Order 1971 as amended (which includes medicines supplied for use in a registered pharmacy), the annual fee would be reduced from £50 to £20 under specified conditions. These are that the manufacturing activity consisted solely of mixing together medicinal products and ingredients, other than active ingredients, for the purpose of administration to a particular person after the licence holder has been requested by or for and in that person's presence to use his judgment as to the treatment required and the manufacturing was done on the holder's premises which can be closed so as to exclude the public and the products are supplied without any written recommendation.

Where the manufacturer's licence is in respect only of the assembly of a medicinal product, the annual fee is reduced from £50 to £20 when the products are

them that insistence by pharmacists on properly written prescriptions for Controlled Drugs, is required by law, and that the doctor himself can be charged with issuing an illegal prescription.

Shocking shock report

The editorial in a recent *C&D* deals with the Consumer Association report on retail pharmacy under the heading "A shock report". "Shocking" was the adjective would have applied myself, for the Consumers Association have deliberately inverted the findings in their publicity. To emphasise that 20 per cent, in their view, failed their test, is a strange way of saying that 80 per cent succeeded in satisfying their requirements. I do wish the Consumers Association did not feel the need of subscribers so badly that it has to resort to techniques of this kind in order to attract publicity. Perhaps a survey on Consumer Association surveys should be done by some other independent body—just to see whether their advice is itself flawless.

named in the licence and are assembled only for retail sale or supply from the premises where they are assembled in the course of the licence holder's business and are not advertised. The same fee would be £10 in the case of a retail pharmacist product (as in the previous regulations) or where all the products to be assembled are for sale or supply in the course of a business and where the person carrying on that business sells or supplies the product without any written recommendation for administration to a particular person after being requested by or on behalf of the person in his presence to use his own judgment as to the treatment required.

□ The Misuse of Drugs Act (Modification) Order 1975, published last week (HM Stationery Office, SI No 421, 4p), adds difenoxim and 4-bromo-2, 5-dimethoxy- α -methylphenethylamine to Part I of Schedule 2 of the Misuse of Drugs Act from May 1. The House of Lords debated the Order in draft form recently (*C&D*, March 22, p397).

Design for Boots store described as 'abysmal'

Plans to demolish a shop on the Cornhill at Bury St Edmunds, Suffolk, to make way for a new Boots branch, as the town's largest store, have been strongly criticised by local preservation groups. "Abysmal" is how one of them described the standard of design of the new shop which Boots want to build there. Now St Edmundsbury council planning committee has put off a decision on the site, saying there should be more talks with the company about their proposals. The committee was told the Suffolk Preservation Society wanted to see the old building incorporated in any new development on the site. In a letter to the council's planning department, the society also said the plans produced showed a "complete lack of understanding of fundamental design principles".

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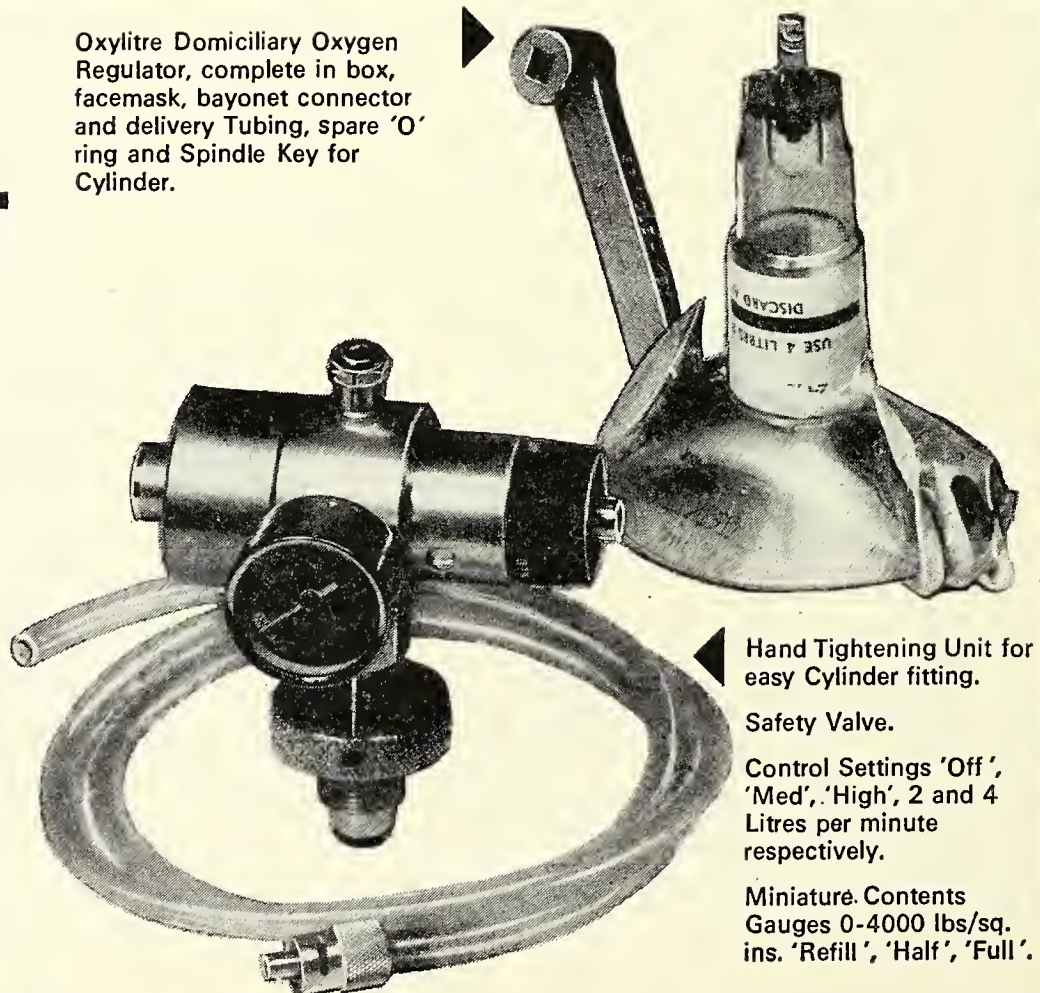
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Company News

Judgment on Roche action after vacation

Judgment was reserved in the High Court last week on the claim by F. Hoffman-La Roche for disclosure of documents of the Monopolies Commission. (see *C&D*, March 22, p398).

In the action Roche are seeking to nullify orders made by the Department of Trade and Industry that Roche should reduce the prices of Librium and Valium. The documents Roche wish to see include communications between Commission members, and between members and their staff, and evidence given to the Commission by third parties during the Roche investigation. Disclosure has been opposed by the Commission and the Department, on the ground that confidentiality is essential to the effective functioning of the Commission, and that disclosure would be contrary to the public interest. Roche has opposed parallel applications for disclosure of additional information about their affairs to supplement the company's claim.

At the end of seven days of legal argument Mr Justice Templeman said that he would give his decision after the Easter law vacation.

Rockware's satisfactory year in 1974

Rockware Group Ltd's operating profit before tax and interest charges, in 1974, rose to £3.62m from £2.73m in 1973 from a turnover increased from £41.01m to £44.78m.

In an inflationary year of many major industrial disputes, shortages of materials, a continued upward trend in costs and a severe price code the directors consider this a very satisfactory achievement. Net profits before taxation were £2.71m compared with £2.03m in 1973.

Glass made further progress both in the field of operating efficiency and cost containment. Plastics had a somewhat disappointing year, particularly in the second half when there was a marked reduction in demand.

The total dividend for the year with related tax credit should amount to 4.4297p per share, compared with 4.0570p for 1973.

Fisons pharmaceutical development in France

Fisons Ltd have taken a majority share holding in the French pharmaceutical group, Laboratoires Gerda, for approximately £1m.

Fisons' French pharmaceutical subsidiary, Laboratoires Fisons SA, have been active in the respiratory fields with its anti-allergy products since 1972. Collaboration with Laboratoires Gerda will

significantly step up its activities in France, providing an enlarged sales force of 90 representatives, a complementary range of "ethical" products, manufacturing facilities at Lyon and Paris and national distribution facilities.

Croda's pre-tax profits rise 77 per cent

Pre-tax profits of Croda International Ltd at £12.1m in 1974 were up by 77 per cent on 1973. Sales were £128.21m against £82.5m.

Remarking that 1974 was an "exceptionally good year", the chairman, Mr F. Wood, warned that while 1975 had started well, conditions were now more difficult after the 1974 boom conditions in the chemical industry and a 1975 profit figure similar or even less than in 1974 would be "regarded by us as satisfactory."

There is to be a one-for-one rights issue at 10p a share, and the dividend for the year should total 1.6586p net, compared with 1.5p.

□ Croda is to offer £3.60 per share for Midland-Yorkshire Holdings Ltd valuing the company at £8.1m.

Booker McConnell 'confident'

Pre-tax profit of Booker McConnell Ltd in 1974 at £13.95m was up 44 per cent on 1973 on a turnover up 48 per cent and £2.85m. The accounts show a deficit on extraordinary items which includes £4.25m in respect of goodwill written off on the sale of Budgen shops in the South-west and the disposal of Chemimart as previously announced (*C&D*, February 22, p263). An interim statement at the half-way stage referred to losses on Chemimart as outweighing the profits in the rest of the health and food-manufacturing division. Mr G. Bishop, chairman, states that the group "face 1975 with confidence because of the spread—both geographical and functional."

Sales and profits rise for Smith & Nephew

Sales of Smith & Nephew Associated Companies Ltd at £107.21m in 1974 were up by 27.4 per cent over 1973. Pre-tax profit of the group rose by 14.9 per cent to £11.73m. Tax takes £5.47m (£4.37m) and the proposed dividend rises to 1.8382p net against 1.6584p a share, the maximum permitted.

The sales figure does not include inter-company or sales by Associated Companies.

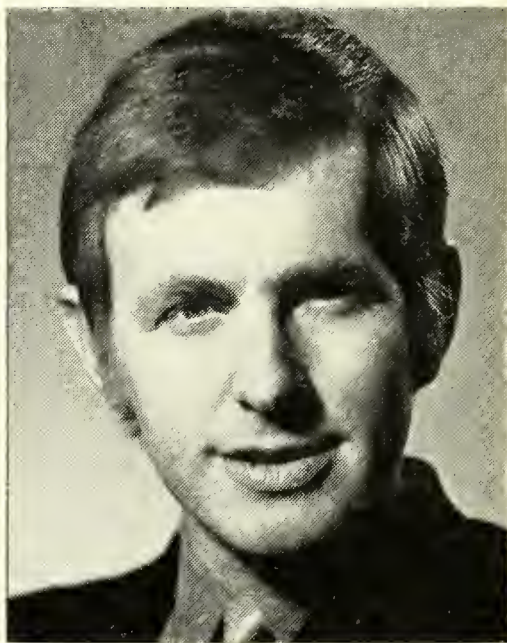
Briefly

Mr R. J. Kaye. MPS is closing down his pharmacy at High Street, Earls Barton, near Northampton, on April 12. Mr Kaye, who has had the business for ten years, says it is no longer economical.

Carlson-Ford Ltd, part of the Firth Cleveland sub-group of GKN, opened a major extension to their factory and offices at Ashton-under-Lyne, Lancs, on March 24. The extension is costing in all some £4m and will more than double the productive capacity for filters over two years.

NCR Ltd: Turnover for 1974 was £65,589,000 of which exports amounted to £27m against a turnover of £52,797m and exports of £13.5m for 1973. Consolidated profit amounted to £6,824m before tax, after providing for depreciation, administration and all other expenses (£6,631m for the previous year).

Appointments



Mr I. M. Jenkins, MPS, newly appointed diagnostic manager within the ethical division of Wm R. Warner & Co Ltd

Polaroid (UK) Ltd: Alex Fowler and Trevor Vincent are new representatives appointed to the company's sunglass sales team.

Radiol Chemicals Ltd: Mr N. Rogers has been appointed representative for Avon, Cornwall, Devon, Dorset and Somerset.

Yardley International have appointed Arthur Carden regional manager for south-east Asia. He will be based overseas in early 1976.

British Tissues Ltd have appointed Mr M. Brown a national account executive to their sales division.

Steetley Ltd: Mr N. M. Peech, executive chairman, will become non-executive chairman from September 1. Mr J. Laird, managing director, will be appointed chief executive.

Unichem Ltd have appointed Mr M. Palmer, ACA, their company secretary. Mr Palmer, who continues as chief accountant, succeeds Mr R. Monaghan who has relinquished the office following his recent appointment to the society's board.

Ward Blenkinsop & Co Ltd: Mr J. S. Hill relinquished his executive duties as joint managing director at the end of March, but remains a non-executive member of the board for a period. Mr Hill was one of a small group which formed the original staff of WB when it was formed in July 1939, progressing from sales manager to sales director and then to joint managing director. Mr P. M. R. Gibson, marketing director, has taken over as sales director.

Market News

Crude drugs drift lower

London, April 2: Because of the general disinterest in the market on the part of buyers, coupled with the Easter holidays, business in all sectors was quiet during the past week. In the event, crude drug prices continued their downward trend helped in some instances by new-crop offers being received. Copaiba, Peru and tolu balsams were down but Canada supplies were still unobtainable. Lower also were gentian root, jalap, lycopodium, Chinese menthol, pepper and styrax.

Among essential oils petitgrain, cananga and lemongrass were easier.

Pharmaceutical chemicals, by contrast, continued firm.

Pharmaceutical chemicals

Alain: 50-kg lots £12.90 kg.
Ammonium bicarbonate: £130.50 per metric ton.
Ammonium chloride: Pure in 50-kg lots £0.2059 kg for powder.
Atropine: (per kg for ½-kg lots) Alkaloid £85.00 methonitrate £95.00; methylbromide £83.50; sulphate £66.50.
Benzocaine: 50-kg lots of BP £3.53 kg.
Benzoic acid: BP in 500-kg lots £0.5352 kg (50 kg kegs).
Bromides: Crystals £ per metric ton [amended].

	Under 50-kg	50-kg	1000-kg
Ammonium	930	811	756
Potassium*	840	741	706
Sodium	840	728	693

* Powder plus £36 kg.

Brucine: Sulphate £25.00 kg.
Caffeine: Anhydrous £3.30 kg in 100-kg lots; citrate £2.40 kg (50-kg lots).
Calcium carbonate: BP light £70.00 per 1,000 kg.
Calcium sodium lactate: £0.819 kg in 50-kg lots.
Cantharadin: 10-g lots £0.75 per g.
Carbon tetrachloride: Technical in 4-ton lots £185.60 metric ton.
Chloral hydrate: 50-kg lots £1.00 kg.
Chloramphenicol palmitate: £40.00 per kg.
Chloroform: BP from £285 metric ton in 280-kg drums to £310 in 35-kg drums. 2-litre bottles £1.50½ each; anaesthetic £0.50 per 500-mil bottle.
Citric acid: BP granular hydrous per metric ton, single deliveries, from £521 to £619 according to makers. Anhydrous from £559 to £665. Five-ton contracts respectively £518-£617 and £556-£663.
Cocaine: Alkaloid £350 kg; hydrochloride £319. Subject to Misuse of Drugs Regulations.
Dextromethorphan: Hydrobromide £110 kg.
Digoxin: £2.85 per g.
Dimidium bromide: 5-g lots £3.20 g.
Ephedrine: Alkaloid £18.70 kg in 25-kg lots; hydrochloride £15.85; sulphate £17.40.
Glucose: (Per metric ton in 10-ton lots) monohydrate £158; anhydrous £248.50; liquid 43° Baumé £140 in 5-drum lots; naked £114 (tanker 14-tons).
Glycerin: Nominally £453 metric ton, naked delivered.
Hydrogen peroxide: 35 per cent £167 metric ton.
Hypophosphorous acid: (50-kg lots) Pure 50% £2,269.4 kg; BPC 1959, 30% £1,656.6.
Iodine: Resublimed in 250-kg lots £4.01½ kg.
Isoprenaline: 1-kg lots, hydrochloride £36.00; sulphate £30.00.
Iron phosphate: 50-kg lots £553.80 metric ton.
Lobeline: Hydrochloride £1.20 per g.
Magnesium carbonate: BP per 1,000 kg; heavy from £384; light £275.
Magnesium dihydrogen phosphate: £1.0054 kg in 50-kg lots.
Magnesium hydroxide: (metric ton) BPC light £800; 28% paste £340.
Magnesium oxide: BP per 1,000 kg heavy £1,186; light £800.
Magnesium peroxide: 50-kg lots 23-25 per cent £0.59 kg.
Magnesium sulphate: (ex works, per metric ton). BP from £65.00 metric ton; commercial £58.00-£72.00; exsiccated £196.
Magnesium trisilicate: £495 metric ton in 2½-ton lots.

Methadone hydrochloride: Subject to Misuse of Drugs Regulations. £1.33 per 5 g.
Oestradiol benzoate: £600-£750 per kg.
Pethidine hydrochloride: From £13.30 to £14.90 kg as to the maker and quantity. Subject to Misuse of Drugs Regulations.
Pholcodine: 1-kg £240.90; 60-kg £218.60 per kg. Subject to Misuse of Drugs Regulations.
Phosphoric acid: BP, sg 1,750, £0.2915 kg in 10-drum lots.
Phthalylsulphathiazole: 50-kg lots £1.60 kg.
Pilocarpine: 1-kg hydrochloride £96; nitrate £88.
Polymyxin B sulphate: £62.50 per 100 mu.
Potassium acid tartrate: BPC £1,250 metric ton, delivered.
Potassium citrate: Granular from £556 to £804 per metric ton, single delivery. Premium for powder £11.
Potassium hydroxide: Pellets BP 1963 in 50-kg lots, £1.13 kg; sticks £4.10; technical flakes £0.3879.
Potassium phosphate: BPC 1949 in 50 kg lots, granular £1,232 kg; powder £1,059.
Progesterone: £120-£220 per kg.
Tetracycline hydrochloride: £12-£13 per kg.
Theophylline: Hydrate and anhydrous £3.41 kg in 100-kg lots. Theophylline ethylenediamine £3.36 kg under 50-kg lots.
Terpineol: BPC in 50-kg lots £0.74 kg.
Zinc chloride: Granular 96.98 per cent £350 metric ton.

Crude drugs

Aloes: Cape £1.20 kg spot £1.15, cif. Curacao £1.30 spot.
Balsams: (kg) Canada: nominal. **Copaiba:** BPC £2.00 spot; £1.85, cif. **Peru:** £7.30 spot; £6.40 cif. **Tolu:** £3.40 spot.
Gentian: Root £1.90 kg, cif.
Ginger: (ton, cif) Cochín £460, Sierra Leone not quoted; Nigerian split £480, peeled £640.
Gums: **Acacia,** Kordofan cleaned sorts \$1,500, fob, metric ton. **Karaya** No 2 faq £25.50 cwt on the spot. **Tragacanth** No 1 £528 spot for 50 kg. **Henbane,** Niger £1.20 kg spot; £1 cif.
Honey: (per ton in 6-cwt drums, ex-warehouse) Australian light amber £460, medium £440, Canadian £590, Mexican £460.
Hydrastis: £9.50 kg spot; £9.40, cif.
Ipecacuanha: (kg) Costa Rica £350 spot; £3.20 cif. **Matto Grosso** spot nominal £5.30; £5.15, cif. **Colombian** £5.30; £5.15 cif.
Jalap: Mexican basis 15% £1.60 kg spot; £1.40, cif; whole tubers £1.70 spot.
Kola nuts: £1.65 metric ton, afloat, cif.
Lanolin: 1,000 kg lots BP grades from £955; cosmetic £1,025; technical £903.
Lemon peel: £860, metric ton spot; £850, cif.
Liquorice root: Chinese £260 metric ton; £250, cif. **Russian** £255 spot; £210, cif. (May-June). **Block juice** £1.50 kg. **Spray-dried powder** £1.45 kg spot.
Lobelia: European herb £920 metric ton spot; £880, cif; American coarse powder, £470.
Lycopodium: Indian £4.05 kg; £3.70, cif.
Mace: Grenada No 1 £3,024 ton fob.
Menthol: Brazilian £11.20 kg spot; £10.80, cif. **Chinese** afloat £12.90; shipment £12.80, cif.
Pepper: (ton) Sarawak black £760 spot; £700, cif; white £895 duty paid; £855, cif.
Seeds: (ton) **Anise:** Chinese star unselected from £650 cif. **Caraway:** Dutch £365, cif. **Celery:** Indian £410, cif. **Coriander:** Moroccan for shipment £135, cif. **Cumin:** Indian £525, cif. **Dill:** Indian £160, cif. **Fennel:** Indian (prompt shipment) £480, cif. **Fenugreek:** £130, cif. **Mustard:** £320-£340 spot.
Senega: No spot; shipment £13.00 kg, cif.
Senna: Tinnevely pods hand-picked £0.50 kg; Alexandria £0.95.
Squill: Indian white £2.00 ton, cif.
Styrax: £2.55 kg spot; shipment £2.50, cif.

Essential and expressed oils

Almond: Drum lots £1.32 kg.
Amber: Rectified £0.45 spot.
Anise: £18.00 kg spot; £14.65, cif.
Cinnamon: Ceylon leaf £2.50 kg spot; £2.25, cif. **English distilled bark** £160 kg.
Citronella: Ceylon £1.50 kg spot; £1.25, cif.
Clove: Madagascar leaf £2.60 kg, cif; bud £27.50 spot.
Coriander: £15.00 kg spot.
Cubeb: English distilled £19.50 kg.
Dill: £18.20 kg, nominal.
Eucalyptus: Chinese £4.80 kg spot and cif. 80-85%. **Spanish/Portuguese** £3, cif.
Fennel: Spanish sweet £15.00 kg spot.
Geranium: (kg) Bourbon £22.00 spot.
Ginger: English distilled £7.00 kg nominal.
Juniper: Short. No offers.
Lavender: French £14.00 kg spot.
Lavender spike: £13.50 kg spot.
Lemon: Sicilian best grades from £7.25 kg.
Lemongrass: Spot £3.50 kg, spot; £3.10, cif.
Peppermint: (kg) Arvensis Brazilian £4.10 spot, £3.70, cif. **Chinese** £5.80 spot; £5.50, cif. **American** piperita from £18.00.
Petitgrain: £5.00 kg spot; £4.50, cif.
Rosemary: £6.35 kg spot.
Sage: Spanish £10.50 kg spot and cif.

The prices given are those obtained by importers or manufacturers of bulk quantities and do not include Value Added Tax. They represent the last quoted or accepted prices as we go to press but it should be noted that in the present state of the markets quotations change frequently.

Coming events

Sunday, April 6

Sheffield Area, Sheffield Chemist Contractors' Committee, Ranmoor House, Shore Lane, Sheffield 10, at 10.45 am. Conference; speakers, Mr J. Charlton (secretary, Central NHS committee) and Mr G. Urwin (regional representative member of Central NHS committee).

Monday, April 7

Chemical Society, The Royal Institute of Chemistry, York, April 7-11. Annual Chemical Congress.

East Metropolitan Branch, Pharmaceutical Society, Churchill Room, Wanstead Library, London E11, at 8 pm. Mr G. E. Applebe (deputy head, law department) on "Recent legislation affecting pharmacy".

Society of Cosmetic Chemists, Piccadilly Hotel, Manchester. Symposium on "A sensory approach to cosmetic science". Until April 9.

South-east England Region, Pharmaceutical Society, Varley hall of residence, Coldean Lane, Brighton. Refresher course on "Physiology and pharmacology of the gastro-intestinal system".

Stockport Branch, Pharmaceutical Society, ICI Pharmaceutical division, Alderley Park, at 8 pm. Dr A. G. Ironside on "Recent advances in infectious diseases".

Slough Branch, National Pharmaceutical Union, The White Horse, Bath Road, Cippenham, Slough, at 7.30 pm. Mr T. P. Astill on "Some legal pitfalls in running a pharmacy".

Tuesday, April 8

Galen Group, Pharmaceutical Society, The Friends' Meeting House, Croydon, at 8 pm. Miss Elizabeth Grey on "Travel on a shoestring".

Lanarkshire Branch, Pharmaceutical Society, Nurses' recreation hall, Strathclyde Hospital, Motherwell, at 7.30 pm. Annual meeting.

Nottingham Branch, Pharmaceutical Society, Town Hall, Newark, at 8 pm. Dr T. E. J. Healy on "Aspects of intensive care".

Oxfordshire Branch, Pharmaceutical Society, Oxford Motel, at 8 pm. Cosmetic evening.

Sunderland Branch, Pharmaceutical Society, Kings room, Roker Hotel, Sunderland, at 8 pm. Annual meeting.

North Metropolitan Branch, Pharmaceutical Society, Marsden room, at 7.30 pm. Visit to the pharmacy, Royal Free Hospital, Hampstead.

Wednesday, April 9

Ulster Chemists' Association, 73 University Street, Belfast, at 8 pm. Meeting addressed by Mr Downing (NPU).

West Cumberland Branch, Pharmaceutical Society, Hundith Hill Hotel, Cockermouth, at 8 pm. Annual meeting.

West Metropolitan Branch, Pharmaceutical Society, Great Western Royal Hotel, Paddington Station, London W2, at 7 pm. Mr J. Charlton (deputy secretary, Central NHS Chemist Contractors Committee) on "Making the best use of the drug traffic".

Thursday, April 10

Harrogate Branch, Pharmaceutical Society, Postgraduate centre, Harrogate General Hospital, at 8 pm. Mr D. C. Harrod on "The Chelsea physic garden".

Manchester & Salford Branch, Pharmaceutical Society, Pharmacy Common Room, Old Medical School, second floor, University of Manchester, at 8 pm. Annual meeting.

Friday, April 11

Croydon Branch, Pharmaceutical Society, Greyhound Hotel, Park Lane, Croydon, at 8 pm. Working dinner.

Saturday, April 12

Yorkshire Branch, Pharmaceutical Society, University of Bradford, Residential post-experience course for practising pharmacists on "Drug interaction", until April 13.

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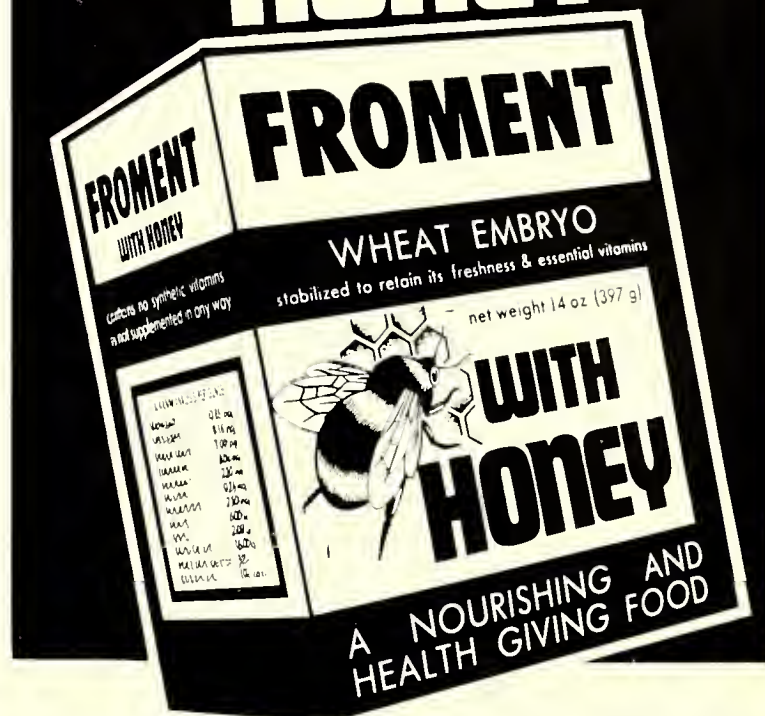
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